



National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness

Women

June 2004

*Resources listed herein are a selection of materials available on this topic. Many are available from your local library or inter-library loan. Unless otherwise noted, all other materials are available from the National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness. Photocopying charges are \$.10 per page; make checks payable to **Policy Research Associates, Inc.** If you have difficulty locating any of the materials listed in this bibliography, please contact the Resource Center at the phone number or e-mail address below.*

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Policy Research Associates, Inc., under contract to the Center for Mental Health Services

Women

Order #: 8945

Authors: Adams, C.E., Pantelis, C., Duke, P.J., Barnes, T.R.

Title: Psychopathology, Social and Cognitive Functioning in a Hostel for Homeless Women.

Source: British Journal of Psychiatry 168: 82-86, 1996. (Journal Article: 5 pages)

Abstract: This study surveyed all residents in a hostel for homeless women. Demographic data, and information on past and present psychiatric and social morbidity, and current and premorbid cognitive functioning were collected. A four week prevalence study, using: SCID-PD; a semi-structured interview; GHQ; SBS; Manchester Scale; MMSE; and NART; the data were analyzed using SPSS. The women originated from across the social spectrum and disruption of early family life was common. Fifty percent had a severe mental illness and most were not receiving drug treatment. High levels of active psychotic symptoms were present. Women with psychosis had suffered a greater intellectual decline from their premorbid levels of functioning than those without psychosis. The study affirmed findings of earlier studies employing case-studies methodology. Women with high levels of psychiatric morbidity and social dysfunction were being managed by care workers in a way that may promote stability rather than a drift into street-life.

Order #: 9912

Authors: Anderson, D.G., Imle, M.A.

Title: Families of Origin of Homeless and Never-Homeless Women.

Source: Western Journal of Nursing Research 23(4): 394-413, 2001. (Journal Article: 19 pages)

Abstract: In this study, naturalistic inquiry was used to compare the characteristics of families of origin of homeless women with never-homeless women. The women's experiences in their families of origin were explored during in depth interviews using Lofland and Lofland's conceptions of meanings, practices, episodes, roles, and relationships to guide the analysis. The two groups were similar with respect to family abuse history, transience, and loss. The never-homeless women had support from an extended family member who provided unconditional love, protection, a sense of connection, and age-appropriate expectations, as contrasted with homeless women who described themselves as being without, disconnected, and having to be "little adults" in their families of origin. The experience of family love and connection seemed to protect never-homeless women from the effects of traumatic life events in childhood. These findings provide support for the influence of a woman's family of origin as a precursor to homelessness (authors).

Order #: 13155

Authors: Ashenberg Straussner, S.L., Brown, S.

Title: The Handbook of Addiction Treatment for Women: Theory and Practice.

Source: San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2002. (Book: 620 pages)

Abstract: This comprehensive resource offers an overview of the history of women and addiction, explores the unique challenges the female addict poses, and provides specific guidelines for diagnosing and treating an individual female addict. The contributors to this volume analyze the underlying psychological issues, traumas, and abuse that contribute to addictive behavior, and examine the repercussions women experience when they become addicted or cross addicted to drugs, alcohol, sex, food, relationships, shopping, gambling, smoking, or spending. They consider the complex factors that can influence a woman's behavior, including age, race, culture, and psychological issues, and explore how individual women experience addiction differently, whether they are lesbian, homeless, incarcerated, or dually diagnosed.

Available From: John Wiley and Sons, 10475 Crosspoint Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46256, (877) 762-2974, www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0787953555.html, (ISBN: 0-7879-5355-5, COST: \$80.00).

Women

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- Authors:** Bachrach, L.
- Title:** **Homeless Mentally Ill Women: A Special Population.**
- Source:** In Spurlock, J. and Robinowitz, C. (eds.), *The Myth of Options: Social and Cultural Issues*. Women in Context Series. New York, NY: Plenum Press. 1993. (Book Chapter: 7 pages)
- Abstract:** This chapter analyzes the needs, characteristics, and unique problems faced by homeless mentally ill women. The discussion focuses first on the circumstances of homeless persons in general, then on homeless people with chronic mental illness, next on homeless women, and finally turns to homeless mentally ill women. Bachrach's thesis is that, by virtue of being subject to all of the problems, disabilities, and discrimination inherent to each of the three more general groups of homeless persons, homeless mentally ill women are uniquely vulnerable, uniquely lacking in resources, and uniquely difficult to serve. The author suggests that researchers, planners, and service providers must consider these special qualities in designing studies, treatment, and services for this population.
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- Order #: 546**
- Authors:** Badagliacco, J.M.
- Title:** **"He's Not Mr. Right, He's More Like Mr. Now." Patrifocal and Matrifocal Discourses Among Homeless Mothers in Kentucky.**
- Source:** *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 26(3): 71-101, 1999. (Journal Article: 31 pages)
- Abstract:** This article examines what strategies homeless mothers use to cope with their situations. In-depth interviews in Kentucky of 68 homeless mothers with children revealed similarities and differences among the women, as well as a continuum of approaches to gender relations. Although differing in race/ethnicity and place of origin (rural vs. urban) among other factors, the overwhelming majority of women experienced unstable and abusive households and social relationships while growing up. Most did not complete high school and had their first births while teenagers. Two primary approaches to gender relations were observed. Women with a matrifocal worldview tended to perceive themselves as the primary agents in their own and their children's lives. Women with a patrifocal worldview tended to see a man as their provider and as the solution to their crises. These two discourses tended to be independent of region and race/ethnicity.
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- Order #: 8382**
- Authors:** Baldwin, D.M.
- Title:** **The Subsistence Adaptation of Homeless Mentally Ill Women.**
- Source:** *Human Organization* 57(2): 190-199, 1998. (Journal Article: 10 pages)
- Abstract:** This article explores the day-to-day adaptation of mentally ill women to the rigors of homelessness. The research on which it is based is unique in having collected extensive ethnographic data on the subsistence adaptation of a small (n=13), yet heterogeneous sample of homeless mentally ill women in Los Angeles over the course of more than three years. The subsistence adaptations of these women in a number of areas are described, including shelter, food, clothing, hygiene, income and money management, safety and victimization, health and health care, social support, and social service utilization. The role of severe mental illness and the long-term effects of homelessness are also examined. Study participants employed a wide variety of strategies in dealing with their living environments. The authors state that homeless mentally ill women are shown to be a heterogeneous group whose lives are marked by recurring and unpredictable change, as are their adaptations to these changes (author).
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- Order #: 7715**

Women

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- Authors:** Banyard, V.L. **Order #:** 6002
- Title:** **Taking Another Route: Daily Survival Narratives From Mothers Who Are Homeless.**
- Source:** American Journal of Community Psychology 23(6): 871-891, 1995. (Journal Article: 23 pages)
- Abstract:** Homelessness among families has become a growing social problem for communities, yet little is known about the types of daily survival strategies such families employ. This article presents results of a qualitative study of the coping narratives of 64 mothers living in temporary emergency shelters with their children. The women reported using a variety of coping responses to daily stressful events. Results suggest that stress and coping theory may be useful for understanding homelessness. Implications for program development and future research are discussed (author).
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- Authors:** Bard, M. **Order #:** 2497
- Title:** **Shadow Women: Homeless Women's Survival Stories.**
- Source:** Kansas City, MO: Sheed and Ward, 1990. (Book: 218 pages)
- Abstract:** This book is a 15-year field journal of homeless women's survival stories. The stories tell why and how these women became and remain homeless, as well as reflecting community and system responses and needs. The book also describes those women who are at risk of becoming homeless and innovative programs to prevent homelessness among this population. The author contends that solutions are at hand that do not involve more government-funded shelters, but rather foster self-sufficient living and working: raising self-esteem and community spirit through Community Land Trusts, bartering, sweat equity affordability, cottage/new light industry, and repopulation of dying towns (author).
- Available From:** Rowman & Littlefield Inc., 4501 Forbes Boulevard, Suite 300, Latham, MD 20706, (800) 462-6420, www.rowmanlittlefield.com (COST: \$12.95).
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- Authors:** Barrow, S., Dan, S., Lipton, F.R., Rice, J.C. **Order #:** 2773
- Title:** **A Program to Link Up Services (A-PLUS).**
- Source:** Rockville, MD: National Institute of Mental Health, 1992. (Report: 78 pages)
- Abstract:** This is the final report of the Stewart B. McKinney Demonstration Project in New York City. The A-PLUS program (A Program to Link Up Services) was designed to engage homeless women with serious mental illnesses from the city's municipal shelters in a six-month transitional program and move them to housing and community-based services.
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- Authors:** Barrow, S.M., Dan, S., Lipton, F.R., Rice, J.C. **Order #:** 2834
- Title:** **Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Mentally Ill Demonstration Project Serving Women in New York City Municipal Shelters.**
- Source:** New York: NY: New York State Psychiatric Institute, 1992. (Report: 78 pages)
- Abstract:** This report provides evaluation data concerning the implementation and outcomes of the McKinney Demonstration Project serving women in New York City municipal shelters. The goal of this project was to develop a system through which homeless women with serious mental illnesses who utilize New York City's municipal shelters could be identified, evaluated and subsequently participate in a case management program designed to facilitate placement into transitional or permanent housing. In order to achieve this goal, the municipal shelter system was integrated with an existing mobile psychiatric assessment service and a newly developed case management program (authors).

Women

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- Authors:** Bassuk, E.L. **Order #: 2131**
- Title:** **Social and Economic Hardships of Homeless and Other Poor Women.**
- Source:** American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 63(3): 340-347, 1993. (Journal Article: 8 pages)
- Abstract:** This literature review examines the problems of poverty, housing, single motherhood and social isolation as they are experienced by homeless women. The author concludes that gender-related biases compound and exacerbates these problems. Remedies that entail changes in public policy and the enhancement of social-support networks are discussed (author).
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- Authors:** Bassuk, E.L., Melnik, S., Browne, A. **Order #: 7732**
- Title:** **Responding to the Needs of Low-Income and Homeless Women Who Are Survivors of Family Violence.**
- Source:** Journal of the American Medical Women's Association 53(2): 57-64, 1998. (Journal Article: 8 pages)
- Abstract:** This article focuses on the medical and mental health needs of extremely poor women survivors of interpersonal violence. Special attention is focused on the long-term sequelae of childhood abuse and on identifying and managing complex trauma responses in these women. The article concludes by discussing obstacles to care and the necessity of advocating for increased resources to respond to women living in extreme poverty (authors).
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- Authors:** Bassuk, E.L., Mickelson, K.D., Bissell, H.D., Perloff, J.N. **Order #: 11868**
- Title:** **Role of Kin and Nonkin Support in the Mental Health of Low-Income Women.**
- Source:** American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 72(1): 39-49, 2002. (Journal Article: 11 pages)
- Abstract:** In this paper, data from the Worcester Family Research Project was analyzed to determine whether social support processes are altered by poverty and whether kin and nonkin support are differentially related to mental health in low-income mothers. The authors found that conflict with family and friends predicated adverse mental health and more strongly predicted these outcomes than emotional and instrumental support. Moreover, the authors assert that sibling conflict was a stronger predictor of mental health than parent conflict (authors).
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- Authors:** Bassuk, E.L., Weinreb, L. **Order #: 2136**
- Title:** **Homeless Pregnant Women: Two Generations at Risk.**
- Source:** American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 63(3): 348-357, 1993. (Journal Article: 10 pages)
- Abstract:** This article explores the impact of pregnancy on the course of homelessness and the adverse effects of homelessness on pregnant women and their babies. The author reviews the literature and provides several case examples. Recommendations for policy to address the urgent needs of this population are offered, and components of an innovative demonstration program called Tomorrow's Child are described (authors).

Women

Order #: 12328

Authors: Bernstein, J., Chapman, J.

Title: **Falling Through the Safety Net: Low Income Single Mothers in the Jobless Recovery.**

Source: Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute, 2003. (Brief: 7 pages)

Abstract: This issue brief discusses the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families bill (TANF). The authors discuss the ups and downs of employment among single mothers, as well as family income and components in relation to the current job market, unemployment rate, and living wage. This brief asserts that while low-income single mothers continue to make a valiant effort to get and keep jobs, at the end of 2002, there were 3.2 unemployed workers for every job opening, compared to 1.3 at the end of 2000. According to the authors, the downturn and sputtering recovery significantly amplify the demands on state agencies with the task of helping people move from welfare to work (authors).

Available From: Economic Policy Institute, 1600 L Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 775-8810, www.epinet.org.

Order #: 7219

Authors: Boes, M., Van Wormer, K.

Title: **Social Work with Homeless Women in Emergency Rooms: A Strengths-Feminist Perspective.**

Source: AFFILIA: Journal of Women and Social Work 12(4): 408-426, 1997. (Journal Article: 19 pages)

Abstract: This article presents a combined strengths, feminist framework for work with homeless women. The framework focuses on the survival skills of homeless women, and suggests resources that emergency room social workers and others who work with homeless women can utilize. The authors' approach contrasts sharply with other approaches that focus on the pathology of persons who are homeless, particularly their mental illness, alcoholism, and drug abuse. The authors state that emergency room social services are paramount because they fill a wide gap in the current housing-health care crisis for poor families and because they are aimed at the prevention of homelessness (authors).

Order #: 7719

Authors: Bogard, C.J.

Title: **The Rhetoric of Domination and Its Strategic Use by Homeless Mothers.**

Source: Sociological Spectrum 18(3): 229-262, 1998. (Journal Article: 34 pages)

Abstract: In this article, the author examines power as it is used by those thought to be among the most powerless women in society -- sheltered homeless mothers. Using evidence from a longitudinal study of 298 sheltered mothers in Westchester County, NY, the author contends that homeless mothers are not passive victims of the institution of homeless shelters. Instead, the structure of shelter life provides homeless women with opportunities for effective action. Homeless women often effectively use strategies based on stereotypical representations of poor welfare mothers to gain resources important to their ongoing survival. The author argues that, although subtle, this is a strategic use of power by these women. These actions maintain a sense of social efficacy while also helping to secure their most important goal, a permanent place to live (author).

Women

Order #: 10336

Authors: Bogard, C.J., Trillo, A., Schwartz, M., Gerstel, N.

Title: **Future Employment Among Homeless Single Mothers: The Effects of Full-Time Work Experience and Depressive Symptomatology.**

Source: Women & Health 32(1-2): 137-157, 2001. (Journal Article: 11 pages)

Abstract: This study examines the relationship between work and depressive symptomatology for extremely destitute single mothers who have experienced an episode of homelessness. Using longitudinal data collected from 294 respondents who became homeless in 1992 and were followed for approximately two years, it was found that a history of full-time work was the best predictor of whether a woman would find full-time employment in the aftermath of an episode of homelessness. Even an extensive history of part-time or informal work was not predictive of finding employment after leaving a homeless shelter. A woman's level of depressive symptomatology at the onset of homelessness predicted her strategy in dealing with the shelter bureaucracy. Women with full-time work histories who experienced high levels of depressive moods at the onset of a shelter episode were likely to leave the shelter quickly. Those with lower levels of depressive symptomatology stayed and were more likely than others to complete an education or job training program. Both types of women with full-time work histories were more likely than others to find full-time employment after a homeless episode. These findings suggest that policy makers must focus on providing full-time and not part-time, work for impoverished mothers and take depressive symptomatology into account when offering assistance to homeless mothers (authors).

Order #: 11688

Authors: Bridgman, R.

Title: **Housing Chronically Homeless Women: "Inside" a Safe Haven.**

Source: Housing Policy Debate 13(1): 51-81, 2002. (Journal Article: 31 pages)

Abstract: This article examines an innovative safe haven model for providing services targeted at hard-to-serve clients - chronically homeless, mentally ill women. This model is designed as an unlimited stay and low-demand environment, with high support from staff. This article challenges conventional static understandings of the concepts of "private" and "public" and explores issues related to spatial privacy and communality, sense of ownership, ideas about the safe haven being both a home and a hostel, planning for flexibility, accountability to public funders, and accommodation of individual needs (authors).

Order #: 11325

Authors: Bridgman, R.

Title: **A Safe Haven for Chronically Homeless Women: A Model Program in Toronto.**

Source: International Journal of Mental Health 30(2): 79-89, 2001. (Journal Article: 10 pages)

Abstract: This case study of an innovative pilot project for chronically homeless women in Toronto, Canada, contributes to knowledge about how women who are homeless survive life on the streets and about the everyday practices that frontline staff employ in work with these women. The findings further understanding of the multiple, subtle, and shifting levels of distrust and trust involved in work with women who are chronically homeless with mental illness (author).

Women

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- Authors:** Brown, T., Bottinelli, C. **Order #: 10040**
- Title:** **Women of Hope.**
- Source:** Philadelphia, PA: WCAU TV, 1989. (Videotape: 22 minutes)
- Abstract:** This documentary introduces the viewer to the realities of life on the streets through the voices of several homeless or formerly homeless mentally ill women. The centerpiece of the video is Women of Hope, a permanent residence for homeless mentally ill women. Sister Mary Scullion, director of Women of Hope, describes the extensive street needs and problems of her clients and explains the outreach and engagement process used to convince homeless street women to accept help. The film provides glimpses into the despair felt by many homeless women as well as the hope and opportunity for a new life offered by comprehensive programs such as Women of Hope.
- Available From:** Films for the Humanities and Sciences, P.O. Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543, (800) 257-5126, www.films.com (COST: \$99.95).
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- Authors:** Browne, A. **Order #: 2135**
- Title:** **Family Violence and Homelessness: The Relevance of Trauma Histories in the Lives of Homeless Women.**
- Source:** American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 63(3): 370-384, 1993. (Journal Article: 15 pages)
- Abstract:** Studies of homeless women reveal high lifetime rates of childhood physical and sexual abuse and of assault by intimate male partners. Literature on the extent of family violence in the lives of homeless women is examined, as are parallels between the long-term effects of childhood abuse and characteristics identified in homeless women. Implications for research and service provision are discussed (author).
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- Authors:** Browne, A. **Order #: 1971**
- Title:** **Women, Homelessness and the Cycle of Violence.**
- Source:** Opening Doors 1(3): 1-8, 1992. (Newsletter: 8 pages)
- Abstract:** In this issue, the author offers statistics about the pervasiveness of domestic violence in the lives of homeless women and their children and the link between prior trauma and homelessness. The author outlines some of the symptoms of trauma and highlights the important role physicians and other caregivers play in identifying and intervening in the cycle of abuse.
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- Authors:** Browne, A., Bassuk, S. **Order #: 6625**
- Title:** **Intimate Violence in the Lives of Homeless and Poor Housed Women: Prevalence and Patterns in an Ethnically Diverse Sample**
- Source:** American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 67(2): 261-278, 1997. (Journal Article: 17 pages)
- Abstract:** In a study of 436 homeless and poorly housed mothers, nearly two-thirds reported severe physical violence by a childhood caretaker, 42% reported childhood sexual molestation, and 61% reported severe violence by a male partner. Comparisons of homeless and housed women are presented, and implications for prevention and intervention are discussed in light of recent welfare reform legislation. (authors)

Women

Order #: 13419

Authors: Browne, A., Salomon, A., Bassuk, S.

Title: **The Impact of Recent Partner Violence on Poor Women's Capacity to Maintain Work.**

Source: Violence Against Women 5(4): 393-426, 1999. (Journal Article: 35 pages)

Abstract: This report explored the relationship between partner violence and ability to work. The authors state that in this longitudinal sample of 258 ethnically diverse young women who were single heads of households and either homeless or housed in low-income dwellings, those women who had experienced physical violence from their male partners within the past year had only a one-third chance of subsequently keeping a job for six months or more in the following year. The authors note the significance of this data for public policy and welfare-to-work programs, but it is also highly significant for understanding the life struggles of the single-parent families seen in mental health centers and social agencies. The authors conclude that special efforts must be made to address the impact of the residue of violence on the self-esteem, self-efficacy, and hope in poor women (authors).

Order #: 11449

Authors: Brunette, M.F., Dean, W.

Title: **Community Mental Health Care for Women with Severe Mental Illness Who Are Parents.**

Source: Community Mental Health Journal 38(2): 153-165, 2002. (Journal Article: 13 pages)

Abstract: This paper describes services to help clients who are parents, which includes integration of adult and children's services, long-term, home-based parent training, and linkage with community supports. Women with severe mental illness are involved in childbearing and childrearing, but may have problems with parenting related to symptoms, lack of knowledge and skills, or lack of environmental supports. They may need intensive services to manage their mental illness and to parent to the best of their abilities. Preliminary research suggests that mental health interventions can improve family functioning, but that these services are not widely available in community mental health systems (authors).

Order #: 2147

Authors: Buckner, J.C., Bassuk, E.L., Zima, B.T.

Title: **Mental Health Issues Affecting Homeless Women: Implications for Intervention.**

Source: American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 63(3): 385-399, 1993. (Journal Article: 15 pages)

Abstract: The authors review the relevant literature and explore the complex relationship, especially for women, between homelessness and mental health. Estimates of the prevalence of mental illness, substance abuse, and dual diagnosis of both mental illness and substance use disorder among homeless women are examined. The authors also examine the distinction between single women without children and women with children. Recommendations for the design and provision of housing, mental health treatment, and parenting interventions are included (authors).

Women

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- Authors:** Burg, M.A. **Order #: 2541**
- Title:** **Health Problems of Sheltered Homeless Women and Their Dependent Children.**
- Source:** Health and Social Work 19(2): 125-131, 1994. (Journal Article: 7 pages)
- Abstract:** This article introduces an analytic framework that classifies the types of health problems that emerge among homeless women and their dependent children residing in the shelter system. The framework covers three categories of health problems: illnesses coincident with homelessness; those exacerbated by limited health care access; and those associated with the psychosocial burdens of homelessness. The author also discusses the failures of the current structure of health care reimbursement and the deficiencies of service delivery to homeless families. The author contends that the analytic framework conceptualizes the interrelationship between health and poverty and can be used as an instrument for informed social work intervention, advocacy, training, and research activities (author).
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- Authors:** Burroughs, J., Bouma, P., O'Connor, E., Smith, D. **Order #: 792**
- Title:** **Health Concerns of Homeless Women.**
- Source:** In Brickner, P.W., Scharer, L.K., Conanan, B.A., Savarese, M., and Scanlan, B.C. (eds.), Under the Safety Net: The Health and Social Welfare of the Homeless in the United States. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company, 1990. (Book Chapter: 12 pages)
- Abstract:** This chapter examines the health care needs of homeless women and discusses the experience of four primary care providers in Boston, the Bronx in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. Prevention and screening, sexuality and family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, violence, and mental illness, as they relate to homeless women, are discussed.
- Available From:** W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10110, (212) 354-5500, www.wwnorton.com.
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- Authors:** Burt, M.R., Cohen, B.E. **Order #: 746**
- Title:** **Differences Among Homeless Single Women, Women With Children, and Single Men.**
- Source:** Social Problems 36(5): 508-524, 1989. (Journal Article: 17 pages)
- Abstract:** This article presents descriptive data from a national probability sample of 1,704 homeless individuals. Homeless single women, women with children, and homeless men are compared on a variety of sociodemographic variables, including homeless history, psychiatric history, chemical dependency, patterns of soup kitchen and shelter utilization, and diet adequacy.
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- Authors:** Butler, S.S., Weatherley, R.A. **Order #: 5739**
- Title:** **Pathways to Homelessness Among Middle-Aged Women.**
- Source:** Women & Politics 15(3): 1-23, 1995. (Journal Article: 23 pages)
- Abstract:** The authors explain that the country's homeless population has grown and diversified dramatically over the past two decades. Women now make up over 45% of this population, and while public concern about vulnerable children without homes has led to increased attention to the needs of homeless families, older homeless women without children have received far less attention. This article describes a study of 11 women aged 45 to 65 examining the circumstances that resulted in their becoming homeless. The life events they experienced are common to many women-- marital separation, abusive relationship, illness, and employment discrimination. Their situations reveal deficiencies of public policies in failing to protect women against common life events (authors).

Women

Order #: 1009

Authors: Calsyn, R.J., Morse, G.

Title: **Homeless Men and Women: Commonalities and a Service Gender Gap.**

Source: American Journal of Community Psychology 18(4): 597-608, 1990. (Journal Article: 12 pages)

Abstract: This study examines gender differences among homeless persons. A stratified random sample of 248 homeless persons staying in shelters in St. Louis provided data for the study. Men tended to be homeless for longer periods and were more likely than women to sleep on the streets. Men were also more likely to have a drinking problem and to have been convicted of a crime. Men were less likely than women to ever have been married and to be caring for dependent children. The most striking gender differences occurred on service utilization variables; women were much more likely than men to have received social services. Comparison of the authors data with previous studies and potential explanations for the gender gap in service utilization are offered (authors).

Order #: 3287

Authors: Caton, C.L.M., Shrout, P.E., Dominquez, B., Eagle, P.F., Opler, L.A., Cournos, F.

Title: **Risk Factors for Homelessness Among Women with Schizophrenia.**

Source: American Journal of Public Health 85(8): 1153-1156, 1995. (Journal Article: 4 pages)

Abstract: This study of risk factors for homelessness among women with schizophrenia included 100 women with the disorder meeting criteria for literal homelessness and 100 such women with no history of homelessness. Subjects were recruited from shelters, clinics, and inpatient psychiatric programs in New York City. Clinical interviewers used standardized research instruments to probe three domains of risk factors: severity of mental illness, family background, and prior mental health service use. Findings indicated that homeless women had higher rates of concurrent alcohol and drug abuse. Homeless women were also less likely to have adequate family support (authors).

Order #: 8135

Authors: Center for Mental Health Services.

Title: **Focus Group Summary and Report on Formerly Homeless Women.**

Source: Rockville, MD: Center for Mental Health Services, 1998. (Conference Summary: 8 pages)

Abstract: On December 1, 1998, the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) conducted a focus group with homeless families who experience mental health and substance use disorders. The group's purpose was to gather the perspectives and opinions from homeless families on the quality of services they received while homeless. The responses from the group are intended to assist CMHS in developing and improving services and programs for homeless families. This document provides a summary of the group's discussions, focusing on useful interventions and homeless children.

Available From: National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, Policy Research Associates, Inc., 345 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054, (800) 444-7415, www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov.

Women

Order #: 9187

Authors: Chantarujikapong, S.I., Smith, E.M., Fox, L.W.

Title: Comparison of the Alcohol Dependence Scale and Diagnostic Interview Schedule in Homeless Women

Source: Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research 21(4): 586-95, 1997. (Journal Article: 9 pages)

Abstract: The Alcohol Dependence Scale (ADS) is a 25 item self-report instrument designed to evaluate the degree of severity of alcohol dependence. Although previous studies have reported on the validity of the ADS, no studies using the ADS have been done on the homeless population, a special and rapidly growing population. To assess the utility of the ADS in a population of homeless, substance-abusing women, the ADS questionnaire was compared with the DSM-III-R alcohol use disorder diagnosis as measured by the Diagnostic Interview Schedule (DIS). Both the ADS and the DIS were administered to 149 homeless, substance-abusing women by trained lay interviewers. There was good agreement between the ADS and the past-year DIS diagnosis of alcohol use disorder. The level of agreement between the ADS and DIS, as well as sensitivity and specificity, for various ADS cutoff scores are reported to facilitate selection of cutoff scores by clinicians and future researchers.

Order #: 13526

Authors: Cheung, A., Hwang, S.

Title: Risk of Death Among Homeless Women: A Cohort Study and Review of the Literature.

Source: Canadian Medical Association Journal 170(8): 1243-1252, 2004. (Journal Article: 10 pages)

Abstract: This report discusses mortality rates and causes of death in a cohort of women who used homeless shelters in Toronto. The authors compare results from their study with those of other published studies of homeless women and with data for women in the general population. The authors assert that the risk of death among homeless women was greater than that among women in the general population. The article also states that the mortality rates among younger homeless women and younger homeless men were not significantly different, however the mortality rates were significantly lower among older homeless women than among older homeless men. The authors conclude that excess mortality is far greater among homeless women under age 45 years than among older homeless women, and that mortality rates among younger homeless women often approach or equal those of younger homeless men. The article suggests that efforts to reduce deaths of homeless women should focus on those under age 45 (authors).

Order #: 7025

Authors: Clarke, P.N., Pendry, N.C., Kim, Y.S.

Title: Patterns of Violence in Homeless Women.

Source: Western Journal of Nursing Research 19(4): 490-500, 1997. (Journal Article: 11 pages)

Abstract: This article describes a qualitative exploratory study that describes reported patterns of violence of homeless battered women and their experiences in their search for shelter. Seven sheltered women who were currently homeless due to abuse by their male partners constituted the sample for the study. The study found that homelessness was the adaptive response to battering, and that a theory of freedom-seeking behavior emerged, with related themes including terror, murderous thoughts, awakening, and escape. The authors discuss the emerging theory as having implications for outreach, case finding, and identification of intervention timing for abused women (authors).

Women

Order #: 6828

Authors: Cohen, C.I., Ramirez, M., Teresi, J., Gallagher, M., Sokolovsky, J.

Title: Predictors of Becoming Redomiciled Among Older Homeless Women.

Source: The Gerontologist 37(1): 67-74, 1997. (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Abstract: The authors test a model to predict residential outcome among 201 women who are homeless and aged 50 or over. On two-year follow-up, 47% were successfully domiciled. Of 12 variables examined, only perceived support and number of community facilities attended were significant predictors of being domiciled. Three additional variables -- absence of psychosis, a lifetime history of less than one year of homelessness, and number of entitlements -- attained near significance. The authors conclude that although residential outcome is predicted by a few individual characteristics, the most striking element is the lack of suitable housing options (authors).

Order #: 11674

Authors: Cook, M.A.

Title: Substance-Abusing Homeless Mothers in Treatment Programs: A Question of Knowing.

Source: Contemporary Drug Problems 22(2): 291-316, 1995. (Journal Article: 26 pages)

Abstract: This article examines a study done for the purpose of answering the question "What is the life of a homeless substance-abusing mother with young children like?" Within this study, a more specific focus was the epistemological development of these women. This article reports on the ways of knowing for 12 of the substance-abusing homeless women in the project. It also demonstrates how epistemological development can be a means for explaining substance abuse treatment outcomes through an examination of the fit between clients' ways of knowing and treatment interventions (authors).

Order #: 8891

Authors: Copeland, M.E., Harris, M.

Title: Healing the Trauma of Abuse: A Women's Workbook.

Source: Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publishers, 2000. (Guide: 406 pages)

Abstract: This workbook is a practical, step-by-step guide through the recovery and healing process for women who have experienced sexual, emotional, or physical abuse in childhood and/or adulthood. The workbook is based on an approach to trauma recovery developed by Maxine Harris and clinicians at Community Connections, a private not-for-profit mental health agency in Washington, D.C. The community of women who developed the model included some who had experienced trauma themselves.

Available From: New Harbinger Publications, 5674 Shattuck Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609, (800) 748-6273, www.newharbinger.com (COST: \$22.95).

Women

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- Authors:** Coridan, C., O'Connell, C. **Order #: 11992**
- Title:** Meeting the Challenge: Ending Treatment Disparities for Women of Color.
- Source:** Alexandria, VA: National Mental Health Association, 2002. (Report: 22 pages)
- Abstract:** This report, based on research which clearly shows that women are more likely than men to experience co-occurring mental health and substance abuse/addiction disorders, focuses on the increased need women have for comprehensive treatment models. Due to the majority of persons who suffer from addictive disorders, women of minority status are often unaware of, or unable to access appropriate services. When women of color who have mental health problems, substance abuse/addiction and co-occurring disorders seek help, they can encounter inadequate and irrelevant treatment programs with little or no sensitivities to specific gender, racial and cultural issues. This report provides research-based information, strategies and action steps for grant writing and other funding, advocacy, coalition building, community services assessments and program development (authors).
- Available From:** National Mental Health Association, 2001 N. Beauregard Street, 12th Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22311, (800) 969-NMHA , www.nmha.org.
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- Authors:** Coston, C.T.M., Finckenauer, J.O. **Order #: 2011**
- Title:** Fear of Crime Among Vulnerable Populations: Homeless Women.
- Source:** Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless 2(1): 1-21, 1993. (Journal Article: 22 pages)
- Abstract:** Two hundred homeless women (defined here as homeless adult females living on the streets), were interviewed in New York City about their crime risks and their crime fears. Women who were perceived to have mental illness were not included in this study. Results indicate that fear of crime is higher among those street women who have suffered past victimization. It is also slightly higher among those who perceived themselves to be more vulnerable. There is only a low correlation between self-perceived vulnerability to victimization and the fear of crime. Possible explanations of a seemingly paradoxical situation, namely high vulnerability existing side by side with a low fear of crime, are explored and discussed.
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- Authors:** Crook, W.P. **Order #: 8948**
- Title:** The New Sisters of the Road: Homeless Women and Their Children.
- Source:** Journal of Family Social Work 3(4): 49-64, 1999. (Journal Article: 16 pages)
- Abstract:** Examines the growing social problem of homeless women and their children in the US, providing a historical perspective, offering reasons for the increased incidence of family homelessness, discussing the negative effects of homelessness and considering programmatic responses. Recommendations are made for effective program services and policy reforms, and family social workers are urged to adopt a policy advocacy orientation. There is a need for further research to separate causes from effects when studying homeless women and children; also, researchers need to attend to the significance of gender for the social problem of family homelessness.

Women

Order #: 2244

Authors: Culhane, D.P.

Title: Ending Homelessness Among Women with Severe Mental Illness: A Model Program From Philadelphia

Source: Psychosocial Rehabilitation Journal 16(1): 63-76, 1992. (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Abstract: This article discusses the Women of Hope program in Philadelphia that was initiated to serve "noncompliant," treatment-resistant homeless women with mental illness and a history of living on the streets. Through aggressive outreach and a low-demand congregate housing program, Women of Hope has been successful in bringing 120 women off the streets. Residents are not required to undergo treatment or to stay in the program, but are encouraged over time to seek mental health services and medical treatment. Former residents can be found primarily in independent housing and secondarily in highly and moderately structured housing. The author contends that a lack of programs like Women of Hope has been a significant factor in the development of homelessness among people with mental illness in the past, and the effective planning of more programs like it will be necessary to prevent homelessness in the future (author).

Order #: 8039

Authors: Cummins, L.K., First, R.J., Toomey, B.G.

Title: Comparisons of Rural and Urban Homeless Women.

Source: AFFILIA: Journal of Women and Social Work 13(4): 435-453, 1998. (Journal Article: 19 pages)

Abstract: This article explores the characteristics, coping patterns, and personal problems of 473 homeless women in 21 randomly selected counties in rural Ohio. Most of the women were homeless with partners and often attributed their homelessness to family conflict and economic hardship. Unlike homeless women in urban studies, the rural women had low incidence of mental illness and substance abuse and high levels of resourcefulness. The authors discuss concerns about the impact of welfare reform on rural women.

Order #: 1948

Authors: Dail, P. W., Koshes, R. J.

Title: Treatment Issues and Treatment Configurations for Mentally Ill Homeless Women.

Source: Social Work in Health Care 17(4): 27-44, 1992. (Journal Article: 18 pages)

Abstract: This article reviews and discusses issues surrounding effective delivery of treatment services to mentally ill homeless women. The central emphasis is on the gender-specific issues unique to this population and includes attention to distinctive features of effective case management, utilization of group therapy techniques, and greater integration of the psychiatrist into the treatment team. The article concludes with a discussion of the future issues relevant to community based services to homeless mentally ill women (author).

Order #: 7299

Authors: Davis, J., Kutter, C.J.

Title: Independent Living Skills and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Women who are Homeless: Implications for Future Practice.

Source: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 52(1): 39-44, 1998. (Journal Article: 6 pages)

Abstract: This article examined independent living skills, traumatic experiences, and symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in a sample of women residing in a supportive housing program for women and families who are homeless in Kansas City. The authors sought to determine the needs of this population and the possible role of occupational therapy in such a community-based program. The results indicated that women who are homeless have deficits in independent living skills and have higher rates of traumatic experiences and PTSD than women in the general population. The authors conclude that this information underscores the importance of identifying and addressing occupational and mental health issues of women who are homeless.

Women

Order #: 12789

Authors: Deming, A.M., McGoff-Yost, K., Strozier, A.L.

Title: Homeless Addicted Women.

Source: In Ashenberg Straussner, S.L., and Brown, S. (eds.), The Handbook of Addiction Treatment for Women. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002. (Book Chapter: 18 pages)

Abstract: This article describes the rise of female-headed homeless families as a growing concern for government officials and service providers alike. What makes these women distinct is that often the most pressing issue they face is one of sheer survival. Homelessness is a problem of national proportion in the United States. Homeless addicted women compose possibly the most marginalized and economically impoverished demographic group in the country (authors).

Available From: Jossey-Bass Inc., 10475 Crosspoint Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46256, (877) 762-2974, www.josseybass.com.

Order #: 2872

Authors: DiBlasio, F.A., Belcher, J.R.

Title: Gender Differences Among Homeless Persons: Special Services for Women.

Source: American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 65(1): 131-137, 1995. (Journal Article: 7 pages)

Abstract: This article describes data from a survey of men and women in urban homeless shelters. Findings indicate that, while women were more likely than men to request a variety of services, most of the difference was accounted for by the subgroup of women accompanied by children. Homeless men and women without children exhibited few differences in the number of services they requested (authors).

Order #: 10433

Authors: Downtown Women's Action Coalition.

Title: Downtown Women's Needs Assessment: Findings and Recommendations.

Source: Los Angeles, CA: Downtown Women's Action Coalition, 2001. (Report: 43 pages)

Abstract: This assessment is based upon interviews with 409 women. The study examines demographic characteristics, homelessness and housing, social isolation, health status, acts of violence against women, differences in women's characteristics based upon experiences of homelessness and living downtown, housing and service needs, and recommendations. Among the findings: 94.2% of the women have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives; 40.5% of the women were affected by mental illness; and 58.5% of the women have been victimized by domestic violence (authors).

Available From: Downtown Women's Action Coalition, 325 South Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013, (213) 680-0600, www.shelterpartnership.org/homelessness/FullReport.pdf

Order #: 8462

Authors: Doyle, L.

Title: The Big Issue: Empowering Homeless Women through Academic Research?

Source: Area 31(3): 239-246, 1999. (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Abstract: This article discusses academic research as a means of empowerment for people in marginalized groups, using the examples of homeless women. Issues connected to the position of the researcher in relation to both the agencies dealing with homeless people and the homeless women themselves are discussed. Many agencies have underlying ideologies and overt practices that reinforce hierarchical relations and certain gendered expectations. The article considers the difficulties this creates when working with one's own, and also discusses the social relations of conducting empowering doctoral research (author).

Women

Order #: 11816

Authors: Fearday, F.L., Clark, C., Martin, L., Rich, A.

Title: **Routine Inquiry for Violence in the Lives of Homeless Mothers.**

Source: Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa, 2002. (Unpublished Paper: 25 pages)

Abstract: Homeless service programs are encouraged to implement routine trauma inquiry of homeless mothers. The pervasiveness of violence in the lives of homeless mothers and the potential for that violence to affect functioning supports such inquiry. The authors offer a strategy to help case managers feel comfortable and competent to screen for violence. Routine inquiry of 99 homeless mothers demonstrated that training addressed case manager reluctance. The need for trauma screening is highlighted by the fact that mothers who have experienced more violence tended to report more current psychological distress and to have spent more time homeless (authors).

Order #: 1614

Authors: Ferrill, L.

Title: **A Far Cry from Home: Life in a Shelter for Homeless Women.**

Source: Chicago, IL: The Noble Press, Inc., 1991. (Book: 178 pages)

Abstract: This book relates the experiences of the author, a social worker who worked as the Program Director of a shelter for homeless women in New York City. She depicts the frustrations involved in working with this population including her encounters with endless bureaucracies. Many of the clients in her program were women with mental illnesses and/or substance abuse problems.

Order #: 8792

Authors: Filmmakers Library.

Title: **It Was A Wonderful Life: Hidden Homeless Women.**

Source: New York, NY: Filmmakers Library, 1993. (Videotape: 52 minutes)

Abstract: Jodie Foster narrates this chronicle of six former upper-middle class women who had it all, lost it all, and became the "hidden homeless." You won't see them on street corners, hand held out for change. At first glance you would not even realize that they are women without homes. They are clean, educated, well-groomed and articulate. "It Was a Wonderful Life" follows the stories of six different hidden homeless women as they struggle to survive, one day at a time, and find a place for themselves in a society equipped to deal with the "used to haves". Many of the women were left in financial straits following a divorce, loss of a job, or a long illness, and were reduced to living out of their cars. Their clothes, dogs, and whatever remains of their former lives are packed in the back seat. Few receive welfare or any other form of assistance. They eke out an existence picking up bits of work here and there. The women avoid public shelters where they might be raped or robbed, preferring to sleep in cars, or find temporary shelter with friends. With strength, humor and pride, these women manage to survive. They challenge our notion of who can feel secure in society (authors).

Available From: Filmmakers Library, Inc., 124 East 40th Street, New York, NY, 10016, (212) 808-4980, www.filmmakers.com.

Women

Order #: 12692

Authors: Finkelstein, N., Kennedy, C., Thomas, K., Kearns, M.

Title: **Gender-Specific Substance Abuse Treatment.**

Source: New Brunswick, NJ: National Women's Resource Center, 1997. (Manual: 42 pages)

Abstract: This resource package maintains that women continue to be underserved in both substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, and that data remains scarce on women and substance abuse, particularly on prevention throughout a woman's life span, treatment outcome, and differences among subgroups of women. Four major frameworks provide the underlying structure for this resource package: a life cycle perspective; an approach which is grounded in women's experiences, including women's health and relational perspectives; an integrated, multi-focus model in which prevention and treatment, mental health and substance abuse, diverse groups of women, and a variety of social contexts and women's issues are linked in a holistic approach to prevention and treatment; and a prevention and treatment approach which builds on women's strengths and competencies (authors).

Order #: 8613

Authors: Galaif, E.R., Nyamathi, A.M., Stein, J.A.

Title: **Psychosocial Predictors of Current Drug Use, Drug Problems, and Physical Drug Dependence in Homeless Women.**

Source: Addictive Behaviors 24(6): 801-814, 1999. (Journal Article: 14 pages)

Abstract: The authors examined risk and protective factors associated with three qualitatively different drug use constructs describing a continuum of drug use among a sample of 1,179 homeless women. Relationships among positive and negative sources of social support, positive and negative coping strategies, depression, and the drug constructs of current drug use, drug problems, and physical drug dependence were assessed. Current drug use was predicted by more negative social support (from drug-using family/friends), depression, and less positive coping. Drug problems were predicted by more negative coping, depression, and less positive coping. Physical drug dependence was predicted by negative social support and depression, and less positive social support. The authors suggest empowering homeless women and offering tangible resources for coping with the stress of being homeless may be beneficial to them (authors).

Order #: 12577

Authors: Gamache, G., Rosenheck, R., Tessler, R.

Title: **Overrepresentation of Women Veterans Among Homeless Women.**

Source: American Journal of Public Health 93(7): 1132-1136, 2003. (Journal Article: 5 pages)

Abstract: This article is based on a study which estimated the proportion of veterans among homeless women and their risk of homelessness relative to that of nonveterans. The data came from two surveys of homeless women (one clinical and one nonclinical), and one survey of domiciled women. According to the authors, the proportion of veterans among homeless women was greater than the proportion of domiciled women, and after computing the odds ratios for being a veteran among homeless women compared with nonhomeless women, homeless women were significantly more likely than nonhomeless women to be veterans. The article concludes that women veterans are at greater risk for homelessness than are nonveterans. The authors assert that further study is needed to determine whether increased risks for veterans are a product of military service or reflect volunteers' self-selection into the armed forces (authors).

Women

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- Order #: 3174**
- Authors:** Geissler, L.J., Bormann, C.A., Kwiatkowski, C.F., Braucht, G.N., Reichardt, C.S.
- Title:** **Women, Homelessness, and Substance Abuse: Moving Beyond the Stereotypes.**
- Source:** Psychology of Women Quarterly 19: 65-83, 1995. (Journal Article: 18 pages)
- Abstract:** This study examined the characteristics of homeless women with substance abuse problems. First, 49 homeless women and 274 homeless men were compared to demonstrate distinct problems and treatment needs of the women. Results showed that the women were more likely than the men to abuse drugs, but less likely to receive substance abuse treatment. In addition, women spent more time in doubled-up living arrangements, and were more likely to receive outpatient psychiatric treatment. Implications for research and treatment are discussed (authors).
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- Order #: 844**
- Authors:** Goering, P., Paduchak, D., Durbin, J.
- Title:** **Housing Homeless Women: A Consumer Preference Study.**
- Source:** Hospital and Community Psychiatry 41(6): 790-794, 1990. (Journal Article: 5 pages)
- Abstract:** The authors describe a survey that explored the housing histories, problems, needs, and preferences of a sample of 38 chronically homeless women contacted in metropolitan Toronto hostels and drop-in centers. Despite having multiple mental and physical health problems, the women showed a strong preference for a normal, independent living situation. However, they acknowledged the need for a range of supportive services to maintain themselves in such a situation. The women strongly opposed being housed in settings with mentally ill persons, alcohol or drug abusers, and those involved in criminal activities.
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- Order #: 1353**
- Authors:** Goering, P., Wasylenki, D., St. Onge, M., Paduchak, D., Lancee, W.
- Title:** **Gender Differences Among Clients of a Case Management Program for the Homeless.**
- Source:** Hospital and Community Psychiatry 43(2): 160-165, 1992. (Journal Article: 6 pages)
- Abstract:** Differences between 24 female and 35 male clients assessed at entry into an intensive case management program serving homeless shelter residents and again nine months later. Both men and women were socially isolated, with small social networks and severe deficits in social functioning. Histories of homelessness were similar for both genders, and there were no gender differences in psychopathology at baseline or follow-up. At entry into the program women had higher levels of social skills, larger and more supportive networks, and better housing conditions than men, but these differences disappeared after the subjects spent nine months in the program. Although there were more similarities than differences between the men and women in this sample, more research on gender differences is needed to design and evaluate programs for homeless people with mental illnesses (authors).
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- Order #: 6881**
- Authors:** Goldberg, J.E.
- Title:** **Mutuality in the Relationship of Homeless Women and Their Mothers.**
- Source:** AFFILIA: Journal of Women and Social Work: 12(1): 96-105, 1997. (Journal Article: 10 pages)
- Abstract:** This article described a study that explored the relationship between homeless women and their mothers and the possible impact of this relationship on their current life situation. Seven homeless mothers who reside in a family shelter were interviewed based on a questionnaire consisting of 42 open-ended questions on the relationship of respondents to their mothers. In-depth results regarding early life experiences, the mothering relationship, and the fathering relationship were discussed. The author notes that although it is difficult to generalize the findings of this study, they may be useful to practitioners in interventions with homeless women in individual, group, and family settings.

Women

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- Authors:** Golden, S. **Order #: 1466**
- Title:** **The Women Outside: Meanings and Myths of Homelessness.**
- Source:** Ewing, NJ: University of California Press, 1992. (Book: 319 pages)
- Abstract:** A freelance journalist and medical writer examines homelessness among women from a wide variety of anecdotal, historical, literary, and cultural perspectives. Reaching far beyond the usual straightforward journalistic approach to homelessness, the author, who has volunteered in women's shelters since the late 1970s, offers a multifaceted look at what is, she points out, a centuries-old phenomena. Central to her thesis is the image of the contemporary homeless woman as a modern witch. The author describes her experiences working at a Manhattan women's shelter, while at the same time examining the many causes of homelessness among women (including the expected, such as loss of housing, and the unexpected, such as the detrimental effects of women's traditional dependent/passive societal role). She goes on to interpret a Grimms' fairy tale in which a witch/bag lady appears; to describe the history of homeless women in Western culture from ancient times to present day; to examine the mental illness - real or illusory - that is often assumed to be the cause of homelessness; and to offer insights into the meaning of female marginality (Kirkus Reviews).
- Available From:** California-Princeton Fulfillment Services, 1445 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ 08618, (800) UC-BOOKS, www.ucpress.edu.
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- Authors:** Goodman, L.A., Dutton, M.A., Harris, M. **Order #: 3455**
- Title:** **Episodically Homeless Women with Serious Mental Illness: Prevalence of Physical and Sexual Assault**
- Source:** American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 65(4): 468-478, 1995. (Journal Article: 11 pages)
- Abstract:** This study assessed aspects of physical and sexual assault in the histories of 99 episodically homeless women with serious mental illnesses including: lifetime prevalence; severity, co-occurrence, and recency; and associations between levels of this victimization and specific characteristics of the women. Results indicate that the lifetime risk for violent victimization was so high (97%) as to amount to normative experiences for this population (authors).
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- Authors:** Goodman, L.A., Dutton, M.A., Harris, M. **Order #: 6830**
- Title:** **The Relationship Between Violence Dimensions and Symptom Severity Among Homeless, Mentally Ill Women.**
- Source:** Journal of Traumatic Stress 10(1): 51-70, 1997. (Journal Article: 21 pages)
- Abstract:** The author explains that little is known about the relationship between violence and symptomatology in the lives of women who are homeless and have mental illness. This article investigates the possibility that specific dimensions of violence -- frequency, recentness and type -- may be associated with severity of psychiatric symptomatology in this population. Results indicate that each of the abuse dimensions is associated with a broad range of psychiatric symptoms and, in combination with substance abuse, account for almost one-third of the variance in overall distress. These findings suggest the possibility that intensity of exposure to violence contributes to the severity of psychiatric symptoms even in women who already suffer an overwhelming number of intrapsychic and social difficulties; and that multiply traumatized women do not become desensitized to the impact of new violence. The clinical and policy implications of these conclusions are discussed (authors).

Women

Order #: 2545

Authors: Grella, C.

Title: **Contrasting a Shelter and Day Center for Homeless Mentally Ill Women: Four Patterns of Service Use**

Source: Community Mental Health Journal 30(1): 3-16, 1994. (Journal Article: 14 pages)

Abstract: This article examines a model of service delivery for homeless women with mental illnesses that consists of a combined day center and shelter program. Using data from participant observation and in-depth interviews with clients at the Daybreak Day Center and Shelter Program in Santa Monica, CA, four patterns of day center and shelter use were identified. These patterns include: women who use the shelter as a transition to stable housing; women who use the shelter for periods of respite; women who use the day center but were not appropriate for the shelter; and women who used the day center and were not interested in entering the shelter. Overall, few women from the day center make the transition to the shelter, and then to permanent housing and mental health stability. According to the author, however, in the absence of a comprehensive public mental health system and low-income housing, many more women benefit from periodic use of the shelter as respite from the streets and from daily support services provided by the day center (author).

Order #: 933

Authors: Hannigan, T., White, A.

Title: **Housing Hard-To-Place Homeless Mentally Ill Women, The 350 Lafayette Transitional Living Community: A Status Report.**

Source: New York, NY: Columbia University Community Services, 1990. (Report: 19 pages)

Abstract: The Transitional Living Community (TLC) at 350 Lafayette Street in New York City is one of four TLCs in the city designed as a temporary residence to help emotionally troubled homeless women make the transition from homelessness to permanent living. Since the TLC at 350 Lafayette Street has served as a model for other TLCs, this review of its first year and a half is intended to serve a broader purpose than simply reporting about a single program. The report discusses staff recruitment problems and procedures, staffing patterns, and some of the program's innovative means of delivering services in the effort to overcome barriers to housing placement. The primary goal of the program is to reintegrate difficult-to-place women in the shelter system into permanent housing within a six-month period.

Order #: 10627

Authors: Hatton, D.C.

Title: **Homeless Women's Access to Health Services: A Study of Social Networks and Managed Care in the United States.**

Source: Women and Health 33(3-4): 149-163, 2001. (Journal Article: 15 pages)

Abstract: Homeless women experience more severe physical and mental health problems than women in the general population. Under-utilization of health services complicates these health conditions. The study reported here explored how homeless women access health services within the context of shelter living and emerging managed care systems. Informed by grounded theory and dimensional analysis, the investigator conducted in-depth interviews with 19 homeless women, 6 staff from agencies serving homeless women, and two community health nurses. Findings revealed that homeless women usually had circuitous rather than direct routes to health services. First, they typically found a social network opportunity structure where brokers could assist them into the health care system. The first tiers of access included a domestic violence shelter, a shelter for single homeless women, and a café offering low-cost meals to an inner-city homeless population. Even after locating this opportunity structure, the conditions of managed care, with its mechanisms of referral and unfamiliarity with the needs of impoverished women, complicated access. Thus, access requires policies that address not only the availability of health professionals, but also tiers of access that include social network opportunity structure where women can interact with advocates who broker their entry into the health care system (authors).

Women

Order #: 13228

Authors: Hendricks, S., Helmstetter, C.

Title: **Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, and Battered Women's Shelters: Data Collection Project Twelfth Annual Report.**

Source: St. Paul, MN: Wilder Research Center, 2003. (Report: 63 pages)

Abstract: This report focuses on the lack of affordable housing, resulting in the use of shelters and transitional housing. Based on a shared data collection system among shelter programs in Ramsey County, the authors conducted this annual study of usage trends including demographics, reasons leading to use of shelters, length of stay, and repeated stays. The authors state that in 2002, more than 4,000 people used emergency shelters or transitional housing, and over 1,200 women used domestic violence shelters. The authors assert that a lack of affordable housing continues to be a main reason why people use shelters. The report also states that employment/income is also a common factor in seeking shelter (authors).

Available From: Wilder Research Center, 1295 Bandana Boulevard North, Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55108, (651) 647-4600, www.wilder.org/research/reports/pdf/ramseycounty12thannual%207-03.pdf.

Order #: 2573

Authors: Herman, D.B., Struening, E.L., Barrow, S.M.

Title: **Self-Reported Needs for Help Among Homeless Men and Women.**

Source: Evaluation and Program Planning 17(3): 249-256, 1994. (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Abstract: This article discusses a study that investigated needs for services reported by a representative sample of 1,260 homeless men and women interviewed in New York City shelters. Findings indicated that respondents identified multiple needs. Needs related to meeting fundamental survival demands, such as housing, income and employment, were most frequently cited by both men and women. Gender differences in self-reported needs were found in nine areas. The areas in which men more frequently reported need than did women included: drinking and drug problems; learning how to handle money; getting veteran's benefits; problems with the police; finding a place to live; and getting along better with other people. Need for help with health and medical problems and learning self-protection skills were the only areas in which women reported significantly higher levels of need than did the men.

Order #: 12265

Authors: Heslin, K., Andersen, R., Gelberg, L.

Title: **Case Management and Access to Services for Homeless Women.**

Source: Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved 14(1): 34-51, 2003. (Journal Article: 17 pages)

Abstract: This study estimates the proportion of homeless women with case managers and the associations of case management with access to shelter, food stamps, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and general medical care. Nine hundred seventy four homeless women were sampled in Los Angeles County in 1997 and asked about their use of services and whether they had case managers. Approximately 56 percent of respondents had case managers. The authors state that having a case manager was associated with greater odds of using food stamps and of finding shelter without difficulty in the previous 30 days, but not with use of WIC or with unmet needs for medical care. The article suggests that more assertive forms of outreach may be necessary to link this population to case managers and a broader range of services (authors).

Women

Order #: 12976

Authors: Heslin, K., Andersen, R., Gelberg, L.

Title: Use of Faith-Based Social Service Providers in a Representative Sample of Urban Homeless Women.

Source: Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine 80(3): 371-382, 2003. (Journal Article: 11 pages)

Abstract: There are few quantitative studies on the characteristics of homeless persons who use faith-based social service providers. To help address the lack of information in this area. The authors analyzed survey data on 974 participants in the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Homeless Women's Health Study, a representative sample of homeless women at shelters and meal programs in Los Angeles County. The primary objective of this analysis was to estimate the association of religious affiliation, race/ethnicity, income, and other client characteristics with the use of faith-based programs. In interviews at 78 homeless shelters and meal programs, study respondents provided information about their religious affiliation and other social and demographic characteristics. The names of the organizations were examined, and those with names that referenced specific religions or contained words connoting religiosity were designated as "faith-based." At the time they were selected for study participation, 52 percent of respondents were using the services of faith-based providers. In multivariate logistic regression analysis, lower odds of using these providers were estimated for participants with no religious affiliation (compared with Christian respondents) and for African Americans and Latinas (compared with whites). There is evidence of systematic differences between the clients of faith-based and secular social service providers. The benefits of increased funding through a federal faith-based policy initiative may accrue primarily to subgroups of clients already using faith-based programs (authors).

Order #: 11617

Authors: Hoffman D., Rosenheck R.

Title: Homeless Mothers With Severe Mental Illnesses and Their Children: Predictors of Family Reunification

Source: Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal 25(2):163-169, 2001. (Journal Article: 7 pages)

Abstract: This article examines results of a study on reunification of homeless mothers with mental illness and their children. Although many homeless women lose physical custody of children, prior studies have not examined predictors of reunification. To explore factors associated with separation and potential resources for reunification, baseline data from 1,542 homeless women with mental illness were used to identify unique characteristics of separated mothers. Separated mothers demonstrated greater vulnerabilities than accompanied mothers did, but more resources than women who are not mothers did. Of 698 separated mothers, 118 (17%) were reunited with children at 12 months. Changes in housing, psychosis, substance use and therapeutic relationships predicted reunification. Results suggest that programs for homeless mothers with severe mental illness can affect changes that promote family reunification (authors).

Order #: 8795

Authors: Homeless Health Care Los Angeles.

Title: I'm Every Woman.

Source: Los Angeles, CA: Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, 1994. (Videotape: 70 minutes)

Abstract: One program at Homeless Health Care Los Angeles is "Women Empowering Women," where women have an opportunity to discuss and work out issues like substance abuse, sexual abuse, and incest - all integral components of health care. This video captures role-playing dramas of 12 women who act and reflect on their personal experiences.

Women

Order #: 3911

Authors: Hurlburt, M.S., Hough, R.L., Davies-Netzley, S.

Title: Childhood Abuse as a Precursor to Homeless Women with Severe Mental Illness.

Source: Violence and Victims 11(2): 1996. (Journal Article: 32 pages)

Abstract: Previous studies of childhood abuse levels among homeless women have typically focused either on single homeless women or female heads of families. This study focuses specifically on homeless women who have serious mental illnesses. It explores rates of childhood physical and sexual abuse among 120 homeless women who have serious mental illness. Correlates of experiencing childhood abuse are considered, including mental health outcomes and when the women first become homeless. Findings show the prevalence of childhood abuse was related to increased suicides, and resulted in symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), for some women. Women who had suffered abuse were also more likely to have experienced homelessness at some point in their childhood. This suggests that this is an important precursor to homelessness for many homeless women who have serious mental illness.

Order #: 5769

Authors: Ingram, K.M., Corning, A.F., Schmidt, L.D.

Title: The Relationship of Victimization Experiences to Psychological Well-Being Among Homeless Women and Low-Income Housed Women.

Source: Journal of Counseling Psychology 43(2): 218-227, 1996. (Journal Article: 10 pages)

Abstract: This article describes a study where stressful experiences and their effects on the psychological well-being of 113 homeless women and 116 low-income women were investigated. Measures of victimizations assessed multiple dimensions of this construct, including criminal victimization, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse. Measures of current daily environmental hassles and quality of family environment while growing up also were included. Findings indicate that victimization experiences were significant predictors of psychological well-being for both samples. Results also highlighted the importance of investigating both the positive and negative dimensions of interpersonal influences as well as internal resources, and suggested that these resources for coping with stress may be differentially perceived and utilized by these groups. The authors suggest a need for specific preventative and remedial interventions to empower homeless and low-income housed women.

Order #: 2187

Authors: Jackson-Wilson, A.G., Borgers, S.B.

Title: Disaffiliation Revisited: A Comparison of Homeless and Nonhomeless Women's Perceptions of Family of Origin and Social Supports.

Source: Sex Roles: A Journal of Research 28(7/8): 361-377, 1993. (Journal Article: 17 pages)

Abstract: This study investigates the ability of a developmental model of disaffiliation, which included family of origin and social support variables, to account for the differences between a sample of homeless and nonhomeless women. Both groups were from low socioeconomic populations. A descriptive analysis of the demographic data indicates that the homeless and nonhomeless women are more alike than different. However, analysis of family of origin and social support data reveal that level of disaffiliation was a key distinguishing factor between the two groups (authors).

Women

Order #: 8782

Authors: Jainchill, N., Hawke, J., Yagelka, J.

Title: Gender, Psychopathology, and Patterns of Homelessness Among Clients in Shelter-Based TCs.

Source: American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse 26(4): 553-567, 2000. (Journal Article: 15 pages)

Abstract: This article examines the relationship among psychiatric disturbance, abusive experiences, and homelessness among adult men and women admitted to shelter-based therapeutic community (TC) drug treatment programs. The sample presents with extensive psychopathology and a history of physical and sexual abuse. Gender differences indicate that, except for antisocial personality disorder, females yield higher rates on measures for both psychiatric disturbance and abuse. The relationship between psychopathology and abuse also appears to be much stronger for females than for males. However, the relationship between abuse and adult homelessness appears to be similar for men and women. The findings suggest that, although there may be a need for gender-specific interventions, treatment providers must also recognize that the impact of abuse seems to transcend gender within this population (authors).

Order #: 8081

Authors: Johnson, A.K.

Title: Working and Nonworking Women: Onset of Homelessness Within the Context of Their Lives.

Source: AFFILIA: Journal of Women and Social Work 14(1): 42-77, 1999. (Journal Article: 36 pages)

Abstract: This article reports on qualitative interviews with 25 women who were former residents of an emergency shelter. The interviews used a personal narrative approach to place the onset of homelessness within the context of the women's lives. The interviews revealed that the onset of homelessness was different for working and nonworking women and that the women gained new perspectives on their problems from living in a shelter. They viewed homelessness as part of the process of solving worse problems. The author concludes the findings of this suggest that evaluations of the onset of homeless in the context of women's lives and assessments of the work histories of homeless women may be helpful in designing shelter programs for homeless mothers.

Order #: 1664

Authors: Khanna, M., Singh, N.N., Nemil, M., Best, A., Ellis, C.R.

Title: Homeless Women and Their Families: Characteristics, Life Circumstances, and Needs.

Source: Journal of Child and Family Studies 1(2): 155-165, 1992. (Journal Article: 11 pages)

Abstract: This study investigated the needs of a sample of 100 women from shelters for the homeless in Richmond, VA. The women's responses to a 117-item interview were used to obtain information regarding their domiciliary status, work history, educational background, family and health history, social support, reasons for homelessness, and social service needs. The results indicated that a significant number of the women had moved as many as six times within the past five years for various reasons, including domestic violence, interpersonal conflict, overcrowding, and eviction. Identified needs included housing, food, clothing, and transportation. The needs of homeless women and their children were different from the needs of the homeless chronically mentally ill and require specialized services as well as an increase in the available number of low-income housing units (authors).

Women

Order #: 6417

Authors: Killion, C.M.

Title: Special Health Care Needs of Homeless Pregnant Women.

Source: Advances in Nursing Science 18(2): 44-56, 1995. (Journal Article: 13 pages)

Abstract: The author explains that as women and families join the ranks of the homeless in increasing numbers, many women find themselves confronting both pregnancy and homelessness. This article focuses on the unique health needs of homeless pregnant women. Detailed accounts of the daily life experiences of African American, Anglo, and Latina homeless pregnant women were derived from an ethnographic study conducted in a large metropolitan area in southern California. Their pregnancies were difficult because normal physiological changes of pregnancy often became pathological, signs of potential complications went unnoticed or unattended, and minor discomforts of pregnancy were exacerbated by the women's environment. Nursing therapeutics that support health maintenance and coping strategies of the women while on the streets or in shelters were described (author).

Order #: 8724

Authors: Killion, C.M.

Title: Extending the Extended Family for Homeless and Marginally Housed African American Women.

Source: Public Health Nursing 17(5): 346-354, 2000. (Journal Article: 9 pages)

Abstract: This article reports selected findings from a pilot study designed to describe two groups of African American women: young women who are homeless and elderly marginally housed women. The preliminary study was conducted preparatory to the development of a larger study to explore factors that would facilitate or hinder linking the two groups of women for mutual assistance in house-sharing arrangements. Interviews and history finding revealed contrasts and similarities among the women and between both cohorts that reflected individual differences, common yet divergent life courses, and collective responses to family life situation, societal trends, and policies. Advantages and disadvantages of house-sharing were delineated with 56% of the women who are homeless and 81% of the elderly women viewing co-residential living as an option worth considering. Findings from this study are foundational for establishing alliances that may be a means to promote health and strengthen "family" in both populations (author).

Order #: 11687

Authors: Kisor, A.J., Kendal-Wilson, L.

Title: Older Homeless Women Reframing the Stereotype of the Bag Lady.

Source: AFFILIA 17 (3): 354-370, 2002. (Journal Article: 17 pages)

Abstract: This article presents a study that developed a profile that reframes the stereotype of older women who are homeless to allow fruitful analyses of these women's plight and need for services. Economic and social factors contribute to the growing number of older women who are homeless at risk of their displacement. The study found that mental health problems, low income, family disputes, and abuse or neglect by family members are the primary factors of homelessness (authors).

Women

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- Authors:** Kissman, K. **Order #: 8439**
- Title:** **Time Out From Stress: Camp Program and Parenting Groups for Homeless Mothers.**
- Source:** Contemporary Family Therapy 21(3): 373-384, 1999. (Journal Article: 12 pages)
- Abstract:** This article describes a camp program for homeless families and parenting groups aimed at discussing issues related to parenting while homeless. In groups and individual interviews, the women shared stories about multiple problems that negatively impacted child/parent relationships and their ability to maintain employment and residential stability. These problems included domestic violence, sexual abuse, and substance abuse. Evaluation of the camp program indicated that services available in the community and those provided by shelters were limited and mothers often had difficulties utilizing services (author).
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- Authors:** Kitch, C. **Order #: 8495**
- Title:** **Pavement For My Pillow.**
- Source:** Center City, MN: Hazelden, 1996. (Book: 201 pages)
- Abstract:** This book tells the true story of a woman who began life as an outcast and descended from there into a life of sexual abuse, addiction, and homelessness, only to pull herself back up through a series of struggles and encounters, treatments and false starts. It is a remarkable account of one woman's transformation from bag lady to honors student.
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- Authors:** Klein, M. E., Behnke, S. H. and Peterson, C. **Order #: 1943**
- Title:** **Depressive Symptoms Among Sheltered Homeless Mothers.**
- Source:** Community Psychologist 26(2): 24-26, 1993. (Journal Article: 3 pages)
- Abstract:** This study examined some of the correlates of depressive symptoms among 112 sheltered homeless women. All of the women, who ranged in age from 15 to 48, had at least one child staying with them in the shelter. Their average score was well above the typical cutoff for probable depression. Increased reports of depressive symptoms were found among those with a history of childhood sexual abuse, a history of domestic violence, frequent moves during the past year, little social support, low self-esteem, and external locus of control (authors).
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- Authors:** Koegel, P. **Order #: 431**
- Title:** **Ethnographic Perspectives on Homeless and Homeless Mentally Ill Women.**
- Source:** Rockville, MD: National Institute of Mental Health, 1987. (Conference Summary: 82 pages)
- Abstract:** This document reports on the proceedings of an NIMH-sponsored colloquium held in October 1986. The colloquium brought together 10 researchers to share what has been learned about homeless women and homeless women with mental illness through ethnographic research; make recommendations for service delivery; and focus on the unique and important contributions that ethnographic research can provide in learning about and better serving this population. The report provides an overview of the colloquium, discusses the participants' studies, summarizes the issues relating to the population, and provides recommendations for future ethnographic research and improved service approaches. Included in this report is a discussion of the antecedents of homelessness for women, their social support networks, issues pertaining to their mental health, and their interactions with service systems.

Women

Order #: 8922

Authors: Lennon, M.C., Blome, J., English, K.

Title: **Depression and Low-Income Women: Challenges to TANF and Welfare-to-Work Policies and Program Executive Summary.**

Source: New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty, 2001. (Executive Summary: 6 pages)

Abstract: This document summarizes a report that reviews the literature on the prevalence, treatment, and consequences of depression in low-income women, highlighting the relationship of depression to welfare and employment. Recent changes in welfare policy in the U.S., including the five-year lifetime limit on assistance and the requirement that recipients obtain jobs after two years of continuous support, have increased concerns about depressions and other problems facing many women on welfare. The authors state that the research findings reviewed here have a range of implications for research and for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and welfare-to-work policies and programs (authors).

Available From: National Center for Children in Poverty, 215 West 125th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10027, (646) 284-9600, www.nccp.org.

Order #: 8923

Authors: Lennon, M.C., Blome, J., English, K.

Title: **Depression and Low-Income Women: Challenges to TANF and Welfare-to-Work Policies and Program**

Source: New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty, 2001. (Report: 42 pages)

Abstract: This report reviews the literature on the prevalence, treatment, and consequences of depression in low-income women, highlighting the relationship of depression to welfare and employment. Recent changes in welfare policy in the U.S., including the five-year lifetime limit on assistance and the requirement that recipients obtain jobs after two years of continuous support, have increased concerns about depression and other problems facing many women on welfare. The authors state that the research findings reviewed here have a range of implications for research and for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and welfare-to-work policies and programs (authors).

Available From: National Center for Children in Poverty, 215 West 125th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10027, (646) 284-9600, www.nccp.org.

Order #: 7911

Authors: Letiecq, B.L., Anderson, E.A., Koblinsky, S.A.

Title: **Social Support of Homeless and Housed Mothers: A Comparison of Temporary and Permanent Housing Arrangements.**

Source: Family Relations 47(4): 415-421, 1998. (Journal Article: 7 pages)

Abstract: This article compares the social support of 115 low-income housed mothers and 92 homeless mothers residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing units, and doubled-up housing arrangements. All mothers had a preschool child in the Head Start program and the majority of the sample was African American. Results revealed that homeless mothers in emergency shelters and transitional housing had significantly less contacts with friends and relatives, could count on fewer people in times of need, and received less help from their families over a six-month period than housed mothers. Findings suggest that family service workers should devise strategies to help homeless families access and mobilize existing familial supports and develop new social support networks. Additional implication for policy development and practice are discussed (authors).

Women

Order #: 5526

Authors: Liebow, E.

Title: Tell Them Who I Am. The Lives of Homeless Women.

Source: New York, NY: The Free Press, 1993. (Book: 340 pages)

Abstract: The author investigates and documents the patterns and routines of homeless women. He explains that women are a large but less visible group of homeless people who still retain connections with society. Topics examined include: employment and obstacles to employment; relationships with family members and friends, both within and outside the shelter; conflicts with shelter staff and the need to maintain a sense of privacy in a public environment; the frustrations of dealing with an inefficient and underfunded public bureaucracy; and the struggle to maintain a fragile sense of community in the face of destructive forces such as racism and mental illness.

Order #: 13157

Authors: Lindamer, L., Bailey, A., Hawthorne, W., Folsom, D., Gilmer, T., Garcia, P., Hough, R., Jeste, D.

Title: Gender Differences in Characteristics and Service Use of Public Mental Health Patients with Schizophrenia.

Source: Psychiatric Services 54(10): 1407-1409, 2003. (Journal Article: 3 pages)

Abstract: This study examined gender differences in sociodemographic, clinical, and mental health service use variables among patients with schizophrenia in a public mental health care system. Data from 1999 to 2000 for 4,975 adult patients were analyzed. According to the authors, women were older and more likely to be married and to have Medicaid insurance and less likely to have a diagnosis of substance abuse than men. The authors also state that more women were living independently, whereas more men resided in assisted living facilities or were homeless. The article concludes that women were significantly more likely to have had a psychiatric hospitalization than men, which may be related to differential use of services by men and women with the worst level of functioning (authors).

Order #: 7949

Authors: Marshall, E.J.

Title: Homeless Women.

Source: In Bhugra, D. (ed.), Homelessness and Mental Health. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 59-77, 1996. (Book Chapter: 19 pages)

Abstract: This chapter examines the available knowledge on homeless women in the United States and the United Kingdom. The author first provides a historical background for homeless women in both the U.S. and the U.K. The author then looks at contemporary homeless women and discusses their general characteristics, the prevalence of mental illness, alcohol and drug problems, and physical illness. The causes of homelessness for women are discussed, as well as services for homeless women. The author states that although the number numbers of homeless women are rising, information is still sparse and more research on their problems and needs is required.

Women

Order #: 1136

Authors: Martin, M.A.

Title: Homelessness Among Chronically Mentally Ill Women.

Source: In Bachrach, L.L., and Nadelson, C.C. (eds.), Treating Chronically Mentally Ill Women. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press, 1988. (Book Chapter: 14 pages)

Abstract: The author describes the problems that service providers encounter in their attempts to serve homeless mentally ill women. Several case histories are presented, and survival strategies used by homeless mentally ill women are discussed. The author provides a comprehensive description of New York City's Midtown Outreach Program, focusing on the project's treatment approach to working with this special population.

Available From: American Psychiatric Press, 1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1825, Arlington, VA 22209, <http://www.appi.org>.

Order #: 13096

Authors: McAuley Institute.

Title: Unlocking the Door: Keys to Women's Housing.

Source: Silver Spring, MD: McAuley Institute, 2000. (Report: 4 pages)

Abstract: This report is a collection of facts and policy recommendations to promote housing and economic security for women and their families. Written by experts from national and local nonprofit organizations, this report is intended to inform advocates and candidates concerned about women's issues, among which housing is a primary concern. This compendium of recent research, statistics and policy recommendations includes issue briefs on 13 topics including women's pay, the housing shortage, and government housing programs. Discrimination against women of color, women with disabilities, and domestic violence victims is also discussed (authors).

Available From: McAuley Institute, 8380 Colesville Road, Suite 420, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (301) 588-8110, www.mcauley.org/index.htm.

Order #: 12984

Authors: Melbin, A., Sullivan, C., Cain, D.

Title: Transitional Supportive Housing Programs: Battered Women's Perspectives and Recommendations.

Source: Affilia 18(4): 445-460, 2003. (Journal Article: 15 pages)

Abstract: This article reports on interviews with 55 key stakeholders of transitional supportive housing (TSH) programs to examine the degree to which TSH programs fulfill the needs of the women who use them. Consistent with other research on empowerment-based services, the study found that the women were most satisfied when services were provided in a respectful and individualized manner. The women's recommendations included the implementation of safety protocols and the need for a variety of support services that should be offered but not mandated (authors).

Women

Order #: 8366

Authors: Melnick, S.M., Bassuk, E.L.

Title: **Identifying and Responding to Violence Among Poor and Homeless Women. Health Provider's Manual**

Source: Newton Centre, MA: The Better Homes Fund, 1999. (Manual: 42 pages)

Abstract: This manual focuses on understanding trauma, identifying and assessing its effects, assessing clients' safety, treating clients' medical and psychological conditions, and documenting the effects of violence. Survivors often come to primary care and emergency services without knowing that the effects of violence are involved in causing or maintaining their physical complaints. It is important for providers and survivors to make the connection between past traumatic experiences and current difficulties. Given the high rate of violent victimization among homeless and poor people, this manual suggests ways to connect with clients who are trauma survivors and together arrive at their best treatment choices.

Available From: National Center on Family Homelessness, 181 Wells Avenue, Newton Centre, MA 02159 (617) 964-3834, www.familyhomelessness.org.

Order #: 8427

Authors: Melnick, S.M., Bassuk, E.L.

Title: **Identifying and Responding to Violence Among Poor and Homeless Women.**

Source: Newton Centre, MA: The Better Homes Fund, 1999. (Executive Summary: 14 pages)

Abstract: This is the executive summary for the manual "Identifying and Responding to Violence Among Poor and Homeless Women", a Health Care Provider's Guide (Control #8366). The focus of this report is understanding trauma, identifying and assessing its effects, assessing clients' safety, treating clients' medical and psychological conditions and documenting the effects of violence. Survivors often come to primary care and emergency services without knowing that the effects of violence are involved in causing or maintaining their physical complaints. It is important for providers and survivors to make the connection between past traumatic experiences and current difficulties. Given the high rate of violent victimization among homeless and poor people, this report suggests ways to connect with clients who are trauma survivors and together arrive at their best treatment choices. While this report focuses on women's needs, the general principles apply to men as well.

Available From: National Center on Family Homelessness, 181 Wells Ave., Newton Centre, MA 02159 (617) 964-3834, www.familyhomelessness.org.

Order #: 5605

Authors: Mercier, C., Racine, G.

Title: **Case Management with Homeless Women: A Descriptive Study.**

Source: Community Mental Health Journal 31(1): 25-37, 1995. (Journal Article: 13 pages)

Abstract: This article presents the results of a three-year survey of the activities of two case managers following 25 homeless women with substance abuse problems. The case managers' activity records indicated that a great deal of the case managers' energy was devoted to provided direct, concrete services. More than half the clients received four weekly contacts, for an average total of two hours per client per week. Furthermore, direct support accounted for 42.2% of all contacts reported by the case managers, suggesting that, although case managers fill many different functions, establishing and maintaining a significant relationship with the participants constituted a major part of their work. The study confirms that a high staff-to-client ratio is required to respond to the multiple needs of this population.

Women

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- Authors:** Merves, E.S. **Order #:** 2022
- Title:** **Homeless Women: Beyond the Bag Lady Myth**
- Source:** In Robertson, M. J. and Greenblatt, M. (eds.), *Homelessness: A National Perspective*. New York, NY: Plenum Press, 1992. (Book Chapter: 15 pages)
- Abstract:** This chapter reviews the literature on homeless women in four parts. The prevalence of women among the homeless and the variety of women who are homeless are discussed first. Next, the causal factors and the conditions contributing to female homelessness are reviewed, including a focus on the marginalization of women in the housing market. The third section reviews the more recent empirical research on homeless women, and the conclusion focuses upon strategies for change (author).
- Available From:** Plenum Press, 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013, (212) 620-8000, http://isbndb.com/d/book/homelessness_a04.html (ISBN: 0-30643-789-9).
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- Authors:** Metraux, S., Culhane, D.P. **Order #:** 8748
- Title:** **Family Dynamics, Housing and Recurring Homelessness Among Women in New York City Homeless Shelters.**
- Source:** *Journal of Family Issues* 20(3): 371-396, 1999. (Journal Article: 26 pages)
- Abstract:** This article looks at two sets of women who stayed in New York City homeless shelters in 1992--one set as part of a family and the other set as individuals--and at factors associated with an increased risk of their experiencing repeat shelter stays. Descriptive statistics and event history analysis indicate that regardless of whether the women stay in shelters with their families or by themselves, various family dynamics are associated with particular vulnerability to subsequent shelter stays, especially when the women are part of "young" families, are in households with absent children, or disclose a history of domestic violence. Exits from a shelter stay to one's own housing, on the other hand, has the strongest association with avoiding repeat shelter stays. These results suggest that family dynamics and the availability of affordable housing are two important focuses for efforts to reduce the incidence of homelessness among women (authors).
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- Authors:** Milburn, N., D'Ercole, A. **Order #:** 1260
- Title:** **Homeless Women: Moving Toward a Comprehensive Model.**
- Source:** *American Psychologist* 46(11): 1161-1169, 1991. (Journal Article: 9 pages)
- Abstract:** This article uses a theoretical perspective on stress to review and organize the largely descriptive empirical literature on homeless women. From this perspective, homelessness is considered as a highly stressful circumstance, and the sources and mediators of homelessness are examined. The article suggests that more is known about the risk factors for homelessness among women than about the mediating factors that may lessen the impact of their stressful circumstances (authors).

Women

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- Authors:** Montgomery, C. **Order #: 5936**
- Title:** **Swimming Upstream: The Strengths of Women Who Survive Homelessness.**
- Source:** Advance Nursing Science 16(3): 34-45, 1994. (Journal Article: 12 pages)
- Abstract:** The authors describe a study of the strengths and personal resources of women who had overcome homelessness that revealed that the experience of homelessness for these women was a temporary state of disruption. This disruption was results from an effort to free themselves from conditions associated with despair, such as abuse or addictions, and to search for a better life. Personal, interpersonal, and transpersonal categories of strengths were identified that enabled these women to move in a positive direction toward health and self-actualization. The synthesizing metaphor "swimming upstream" describes the stoic determination required to go against the overwhelming negative forces of their environment (author).
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- Authors:** Morris, J.M. **Order #: 7430**
- Title:** **Affiliation, Gender, and Parental Status Among Homeless Persons.**
- Source:** The Journal of Social Psychology 138(2): 241-250, 1998. (Journal Article: 10 pages)
- Abstract:** The article examines the affiliation, defined as the connection to traditional social institutions such as family, loss of affiliation, and the associated effects on homeless individuals. A survey was conducted of 230 homeless adults in Florida. Women accompanied by dependent children, unaccompanied women, and unaccompanied men were compared regarding levels of affiliation and associations among affiliation, self-esteem, and locus of control. The women accompanied by children maintained more family contacts and had higher levels of self-esteem. For that group, locus of control was more external than for unaccompanied women or unaccompanied men. The author states that the results suggest that there is a cycle related to affiliation, gender, and parental status that creates vulnerability and increases the likelihood of homelessness (author).
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- Authors:** Mulroy, E.A. **Order #: 3273**
- Title:** **The New Uprooted: Single Mothers in Urban Life.**
- Source:** Westport, CT: Auburn House, Greenwood Publishing Group, 1995. (Book: 206 pages)
- Abstract:** This book examines the relationship between the single mother and a myriad of social problems including poverty and homelessness. The book is based on multi-method research that includes analyses of the most recent census data relative to the changing composition of families and households, economic trends, employment, housing and neighborhood poverty. Also examined are the coping skills of 73 single mothers, some of whom are homeless (author).
- Available From:** Greenwood Publishing Group, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881, (203) 226-3571, www.greenwood.com. (COST: \$27.95) (ISBN 0-86569-039-1)

Women

Order #: 2492

Authors: National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

Title: **PATH Finder Report: Meeting the Unique Needs of Homeless Women with Mental Illness.**

Source: Washington, DC: National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, 1993. (Newsletter: 8 pages)

Abstract: This issue of PATHFinder Report focuses on the diversity of homeless women with mental illnesses. The report includes: an overview on what is known about homeless women with mental illnesses and their unique service needs; strategies for addressing these women's needs; and an interview with the co-director of Community Connections, a Washington, DC based nonprofit community mental health agency with special emphasis on serving homeless women with mental illnesses (authors).

Available From: National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, 66 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 302, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 739-9333, www.nasmhpd.org.

Order #: 2267

Authors: North, C.S., Smith, E.M.

Title: **A Comparison of Homeless Men and Women: Different Populations, Different Needs.**

Source: Community Mental Health Journal 29(5): 423-431, 1993. (Journal Article: 9 pages)

Abstract: This article describes a study of 600 homeless men and 300 homeless women in St. Louis, MO, which examined the differences between the two groups. The findings indicate that the women were more likely to have young children in their custody. These women with custody of their children were also younger than the men, more likely to be members of a minority group, more often dependent on welfare, and less likely to have histories of substance abuse, incarceration and felony conviction. The women without children in their custody, however, were more likely to be white, and have histories of alcoholism and schizophrenia. The authors contend that the population of homeless women has at least two subgroups and that intervention programs must be designed to meet their specific service needs (authors).

Order #: 6070

Authors: North, C.S., Thompson, S.J., Smith, E.M., Kyburz, L.M.

Title: **Violence in the Lives of Homeless Mothers in a Substance Abuse Treatment Program: A Descriptive Study.**

Source: Journal of Interpersonal Violence 11(2): 234-249, 1996. (Journal Article: 16 pages)

Abstract: The authors explain that substance abuse programs for homeless women would benefit from knowing the degree of victimization and violence they may encounter in the population they serve. A substance abuse treatment program for homeless mothers with young children operating over a two-year period encountered high rates of victimization and violence. Ongoing patterns of victimization and violence in these mothers continued during their time in the program. This report presents statistical information on rates of violence and victimization in program participants. Accompanying anecdotal case detail provides a greater appreciation of the depth and effects of the problem. The majority of participants also reported having engaged in adult aggressive or abusive acts. These behaviors had often begun in childhood. Implications for effective substance abuse programs in this population are discussed (authors).

Women

Order #: 10286

Authors: Nyamathi, A, Wenzel, S., Lesser, J., Flaskerud, J., Leake, B.

Title: **Comparison of Psychosocial and Behavioral Profiles of Victimized and Nonvictimized Homeless Women and Their Intimate Partners.**

Source: Research in Nursing & Health (24)4: 324-335, 2001. (Journal Article: 12 pages)

Abstract: The purpose of this study was to examine the psychosocial, behavioral, and environmental profiles of homeless women, both those with and without a history of victimization, and their intimate partners. Five hundred seven homeless women and their intimate partners participated in the study. Thirty nine percent of women reported being physically and/or sexually assaulted as adults. Controlling for potential confounders, victimized women were more likely than others to have a history of childhood sexual and physical abuse, lifetime substance use, greater mental health symptomatology, and current risky sexual activity. Thus, homeless women with mental health and substance abuse problems ought to be screened for violent experiences and encouraged to obtain treatment appropriate to their problems to reduce their ongoing risk of victimization (authors).

Order #: 9185

Authors: Nyamathi, A, Bayley, L., Anderson, N., Keenan, C., Leake, B.

Title: **Perceived Factors Influencing the Initiation of Drug and Alcohol Use Among Homeless Women and Reported Consequences of Use.**

Source: Women's Health 29(2): 99-114, 1999. (Journal Article: 6 pages)

Abstract: A qualitative research approach was used to explore the factors that influence the initiation of drug and alcohol use among homeless women and the health and social consequences of drug and alcohol use. The sample consisted of 238 women; of whom 209 women reported drug and/or alcohol use in the past month and 29 women reported no history of drug or alcohol use. Findings of the study revealed homeless women who currently used drugs and alcohol, homeless women who currently used drugs only, and to a lesser extent current alcohol users only, had suffered traumatic childhood events and family dysfunction and had to cope with low self-esteem, emotional distress, and poor physical health. The initiation of drug and/or alcohol use was strongly affected by the social influence of other users. In comparison, homeless women who did not use drugs or alcohol reported a positive self-image, few traumatic events, and chose partners who did not use drugs or alcohol. Common among current drug and/or alcohol users were the reported social benefits of drug use. Quantitative analyses revealed homeless women who were current drug users were significantly more likely to have experienced childhood and adult victimization as compared with women in the other groups. Thus, the need for social interventions and positive social support early in the lives of these women are strongly implicated in these findings.

Women

Order #: 6911

Authors: Nyamathi, A., Flaskerud, J., Leake, B.

Title: **HIV-Risk Behaviors and Mental Health Characteristics Among Homeless or Drug-Recovering Women and their Closest Sources of Social Support.**

Source: Nursing Research 46(3): 133-137, 1997. (Journal Article: 5 pages)

Abstract: This article describes risky drug and sexual behavior and mental health characteristics in a sample of 240 homeless or drug-recovering women and their most immediate sources of social support. Women and their closest support sources both reported a great deal of recent noninjection drug use (56% and 52%, respectively) and lesser, though similar amounts of recent injection drug use (12% and 14%, respectively). More than one-third of both groups reported a history of sexually transmitted disease and sexual activity with multiple partners. Fifty-one percent of the women and 31% of their support sources had Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) scores of 27 or greater, suggesting a high level of depressive disorder in both samples. Similarly, 76% of the women and 59% of their support sources had psychological well-being scores below a standard clinical cutoff point. These data suggest that homeless and impoverished women turn to individuals who are themselves at high risk for emotional distress and risky behaviors as their main sources of support (authors).

Order #: 7970

Authors: Nyamathi, A., Keenan, C., Bayley, L.

Title: **Differences in Personal, Cognitive, Psychological, and Social Factors Associated with Drug and Alcohol Use and Nonuse by Homeless Women.**

Source: Research in Nursing and Health 21(6): 525-532, 1998. (Journal Article: 8 pages)

Abstract: This article compares differences in personal, cognitive, behavioral, psychological, and social variables among homeless women who were current drug or alcohol users, or both, and those who never used drugs or alcohol. The sample consisted of 1,013 women residing in 73 Los Angeles homeless shelters. Depression, anxiety, hostility, emotion-focused coping, lower self-esteem, and less social support were more prevalent among homeless women who continued to use drugs and alcohol than among past users or those who never used. HIV/AIDS knowledge was higher among past users. The authors conclude the results contribute important knowledge regarding the differences between users and nonusers.

Order #: 10285

Authors: Nyamathi, A., Leake, B., Keenan, C., Gelberg, L.

Title: **Type of Social Support Among Homeless Women: Its Impact on Psychosocial Resources, Health and Health Behaviors, and Use of Health Services.**

Source: Nursing Research 49(6): 318-326, 2001. (Journal Article: 9 pages)

Abstract: This study aimed to examine the impact that various levels of support from substance users and nonusers have on homeless women's psychosocial profiles, health and health behaviors, and use of health services. Compared with those who have little or no support, women whose support included substance nonusers reported better psychosocial profiles and somewhat greater use of health services. Support from substance nonusers only was associated with better health behaviors and greater use of health services. Support from substance users only was essentially equivalent to having no support. The study concluded that modifying the social networks of women who are homeless appears to be associated with improved mental health outcomes, less risky health behaviors, and greater use of health services (authors).

Women

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- Authors:** Nyamathi, A., Wenzel, S., Keenan, C., Leake, B., Gelberg, L. **Order #: 8652**
- Title:** Associations Between Homeless Women's Intimate Relationships and Their Health and Well-Being.
- Source:** Research in Nursing and Health 22(6): 486-495, 1999. (Journal Article: 10 pages)
- Abstract:** The purpose of this study was to describe the associations between intimate relationships, characterized in terms of presence or absence of conflictive interaction with the partner, and the health and well-being of homeless women. A sample of 558 homeless women were administered structured interviews by trained nurses or outreach workers of the participants' ethnicity. Women answered questions about their general physical health, health-threatening behaviors (i.e., risky drug and sexual behaviors), health-promoting behaviors (i.e., TB and PAP testing), psychological well-being and symptomatology, self-esteem, coping, and life satisfaction. Women in nonconflictive relationships reported significantly greater psychological well-being, self-esteem, and life satisfaction, and less hostility and noninjection drug use than women with conflictive relationships or those without an intimate partner. Women with conflictive relationships were significantly more anxious and depressed than those with nonconflictive relationships. Results suggest that, when possible, it is advisable to involve the intimate partner in programs to facilitate the emotional well-being of homeless women (authors).
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- Authors:** Nyamathi, A.M. **Order #: 3355**
- Title:** Relationship of Resources to Emotional Distress, Somatic Complaints, and High-Risk Behaviors in Drug Recovery and Homeless Minority Women.
- Source:** Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved 3(1): 93-106, 1992. (Journal Article: 15 pages)
- Abstract:** In a sample of 581 homeless or drug-abusing minority women, the relationship of self-esteem, sense of coherence, and support availability to emotional distress, somatic complaints, and high-risk behavior were investigated. Findings revealed that women who had high self-esteem and a stronger sense of coherence reported significantly less emotional distress, and significantly fewer high-risk behaviors. In addition, they reported lower somatic complaints. Regression analysis revealed that coherence, self-esteem and support availability jointly accounted for 49% of the variance in emotional distress, 10% of the variance in high-risk activities, and 26% of the variance in somatic complaints. Implications for empowering women at risk for HIV infection are discussed (author).
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- Authors:** Nyamathi, A.M., Flaskerud, J. **Order #: 1783**
- Title:** A Community-Based Inventory of Current Concerns of Impoverished Homeless and Drug-Addicted Minority Women.
- Source:** Research in Nursing and Health 15: 121-129, 1992. (Journal Article: 9 pages)
- Abstract:** The purpose of this study was to refine and evaluate the psychometric properties of a measure of the concerns of impoverished minority women who were homeless and/or drug addicted. The Community-Based Inventory of Current Concerns (CICC) was administered to 978 black and Hispanic women who were residents of drug recovery programs or were homeless and residing in shelters, single room occupancy hotels, or with family or friends. The authors state that the revised CICC can be used for clinical and research purposes to aid in assessing the concerns of minority impoverished women and will enable health care professionals to develop culturally sensitive interventions for this population (authors).

Women

Order #: 8665

Authors: Nyamathi, A.M., Stein, J.A., Bayley, L.J.

Title: Predictors of Mental Distress and Poor Physical Health Among Homeless Women.

Source: Psychology and Health 15(4): 483-500, 2000. (Journal Article: 18 pages)

Abstract: The authors tested a latent variable path model in which situational, personal, and social resources predicted several mediators and the key health outcomes of mental distress and poor physical health among 871 homeless women. Mental distress was predicted by risky sexual behavior, less social support, avoidant coping, less self-esteem, client abuse history, social support from deviant sources, less drug self-efficacy and health care utilization. Poor physical health was predicted by a client abuse history, less drug self-efficacy, fewer perceived rewards for drug use, higher perceived costs for drug use, and a doctor visit. Current risky sexual behavior was predicted by a parent drug abuse history, less drug self-efficacy, and more social support from deviant sources. Current drug use was predicted by parent drug abuse history, less drug self-efficacy, more social support from deviant sources and by high perceived costs for drug use. Implications of results for intervention and theory are discussed (authors).

Order #: 12548

Authors: Nyamathi, A.M., Stein, J.A., Dixon, E., Longshore, D., Galaif, E.

Title: Predicting Positive Attitudes About Quitting Drug and Alcohol Use Among Homeless Women.

Source: Psychology of Addictive Behaviors 17(1): 32-41, 2003. (Journal Article: 10 pages)

Abstract: In this study, two separate path models for alcohol and drugs were tested in which psychosocial, environmental, and sociodemographic variables predicted behavioral and substance abuse related factors as well as the key outcome of positive attitudes about quitting drugs or alcohol in a sample of 709 homeless women. A positive attitude about quitting alcohol was predicted by more addiction symptoms, fewer positive effects from using alcohol and not having a partner who uses alcohol. A positive attitude about quitting drugs was predicted by more drug problems, greater drug use in the past 6 months, more active coping, more education, less emotional distress, not having a partner who uses drugs, and fewer addiction symptoms. Implications of the results for drug and alcohol interventions are discussed (authors).

Order #: 8575

Authors: Nyamathi, A.M., Stein, J.A., Swanson, J.M.

Title: Personal, Cognitive, Behavioral, and Demographic Predictors of HIV Testing and STDs in Homeless Women.

Source: Journal of Behavioral Medicine 23(2): 123-145, 2000. (Journal Article: 23 pages)

Abstract: Using a multiracial sample of 621 homeless women, the authors tested a latent variable causal model of personal, cognitive, behavioral, and demographic predictors of two coping mediators and the outcome variables of HIV testing and return for test results and a recent STD infection. HIV testing and return were predicted by more social support, greater AIDS knowledge, greater perceived risk for AIDS, and more problem-focused coping strategies. Recent STDs were predicted by more AIDS knowledge, emotion-focused coping strategies, and risky sexual behavior and one measured variable, crack cocaine use. Emotion-focused strategies were predicted by drug use, less self-esteem, more social support, and greater perceived risk for AIDS. Predictors of problem-focused strategies included less drug use, more self-esteem, more social support, more AIDS knowledge, and less risky sexual behavior. Latinas reported more problem-focused strategies and less emotion-focused strategies than African Americans. The theoretical and practical implications for community outreach are discussed (authors).

Women

Order #: 8783

Authors: Paradis, E.K.

Title: Feminist and Community Psychology Ethics in Research with Homeless Women.

Source: American Journal of Community Psychology 28(6): 839-858, 2000. (Journal Article: 20 pages)

Abstract: This article presents a feminist and community psychology analysis of ethical concerns that can arise throughout the process of doing research with women who are homeless. The unique contexts of the lives of women who are homeless demand that researchers redefine traditional ethical constructs such as consent, privacy, harm, and bias. Research that fails to do this may perpetuate the stereotyping, marginalization, stigmatization, and victimization homeless women face. The author states that feminist and community research ethics must go beyond the avoidance of harm to an active investment in the well-being of marginalized individuals (author).

Order #: 12497

Authors: Penn, P.E., Brooks, A.J., Worsham, B.D.

Title: Treatment Concerns of Women with Co-Occurring Serious Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Disorders.

Source: Journal of Psychoactive Drugs 34(4): 355-362, 2002. (Journal Article: 13 pages)

Abstract: This article discusses the treatment concerns of women with dual diagnosis. A focus group was conducted with seven women as part of a larger study of effective treatments for adults with co-occurring disorders. Women responded to questions about what worked and what did not work in their past treatment experiences and what needs to be added for effective treatment. Five primary themes emerged: negative treatment experiences, negative system experiences, desirable treatment characteristics, therapeutic client characteristics, and life issues affecting treatment engagement. Two of the main treatment recommendations that emerged were the need for advocacy assistance with child protective service agencies and the need for providers to use client-centered treatment methods (authors).

Order #: 13125

Authors: Peterson, L., Gray, D.

Title: Raising the Roof on Research: A Case Study Analysis of the Roofless Women's Action Research Mobilization (RWARM).

Source: Boston, MA: Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development, 1998. (Report: 25 pages)

Abstract: This report analyzes the Roofless Women's Action Research Mobilization (RWARM) project from the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. This project explored both causes and solutions to women's homelessness via a participatory action research approach. The RWARM study had six process goals and three outcome goals and consisted of three interrelated procedures: collective investigation, collective analysis, and collective action. RWARM researchers completed 150 interviews of homeless women in Massachusetts, and analyzed all responses (authors).

Available From: Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development, 14 Beacon Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02108, (617) 367-0520, www.wihed.org. (COST: \$10)

Women

Order #: 3791

Authors: Ralston, M.L.

Title: **Nobody Wants to Hear Our Truth: Homeless Women and Theories of the Welfare State.**

Source: Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996. (Book: 202 pages)

Abstract: This book examines leading neo-liberal and neo-conservative theories from the perspective of 20 homeless women with substance use disorders. The author looks at the questions: what has been the New Right's reaction to the problem of poverty?; how do they deal with the problems of the poor?; what are their solutions?; how effective are their prescriptions?; what are the effects of their policies specifically on poor homeless women?; can the theories explain the women's situations?; and do these theories propose adequate solutions for these women's problems? Welfare liberalism, Marxism, and feminism are theories addressed to women's experiences of homelessness and addiction.

Available From: Greenwood Publishing Group, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881, (203) 226-3571 (ISBN: 0-313-29292-2).

Order #: 5509

Authors: Robertson, M.J., Winkleby, M.A.

Title: **Mental Health Problems of Homeless Women and Differences Across Subgroups.**

Source: Annual Review of Public Health 17: 311-366, 1996. (Journal Article: 25 pages)

Abstract: Homeless women are a large and diverse group, constituting one fifth of the United States homeless adult population. Although many homeless women do not have major mental illness, a disproportionately high percentage experience mental distress and disorders. Rates of mental disorders are highest among whites and women without children. In addition, subgroups of homeless women with serious mental illness are not receiving needed care, apparently due in part to the lack of perception of a mental health problem and the lack of services designed to meet the special needs of homeless women (authors).

Order #: 8063

Authors: Roll, C.N., Toro, P.A., Ortola, G.L.

Title: **Characteristics and Experiences of Homeless Adults: A Comparison of Single Men, Single Women, and Women with Children.**

Source: Journal of Community Psychology 27(2): 189-198, 1999. (Journal Article: 10 pages)

Abstract: Based on a broad sample of 228 homeless adults from Buffalo, N.Y., single homeless women, homeless women with children, and single homeless men were compared on a wide range of measures with established reliability and validity. Based on total lifetime income from all sources, the poorest of the three groups was the women with children. The two groups of women reported greater psychological distress than the men, had more contact with family members, were more likely to have been recently assaulted, and were less likely to have a history of substance abuse or criminal behavior. The authors state the findings suggest the three groups have different needs and require different interventions (authors).

Women

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- Authors:** Rosenheck, R., Bassuk, E., Salomon, A.
- Title:** **Special Populations of Homeless Americans.**
- Source:** In Fosburg, L.B., Dennis, D.L. (eds.), Practical Lessons: The 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research. Delmar, NY: National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness, 1999. (Book Chapter: 36 pages)
- Abstract:** Surveys conducted over the past two decades have demonstrated that homeless Americans are exceptionally diverse and include representatives from all segments of society -- the old and the young; men and women; single people and families; city dwellers and rural residents; white and people of color; and able-bodied workers and people with serious health problems. Veterans appear in substantial numbers among the homeless, as do former criminal offenders and illegal immigrants. Each of these groups experiences distinctive forms of adversity resulting from both societal structures and personal vulnerabilities, and has unique service delivery needs. Attention to the distinctive characteristics of subgroups of the homeless is important in facilitating service delivery and program planning, but may also diffuse attention away from shared fundamental needs, and generate unproductive policy debate about deserving vs. undeserving homeless people (authors).
- Available From:** HUD USER, P.O. Box 23268, Washington, DC 20026, (800) 245-2691, <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/Toc.htm>.
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- Order #: 7900**
- Authors:** Roth, D., Toomey, B., First, R.
- Title:** **Gender, Racial and Age Variations Among Homeless Persons.**
- Source:** In Robertson, M. and Greenblatt, M. (eds.), Homelessness: A National Perspective. New York, NY, Plenum Press. 1992. (Book Chapter: 13 pages)
- Abstract:** This chapter presents an analysis of data from an Ohio state-wide study in which interviews were conducted with 979 homeless persons. The study found significant differences between homeless men and women on the variables analyzed. Homeless women had more physical health problems, and a lower level of behavioral and drinking problems. The women tended to be younger and more likely to be homeless due to family conflict and dissolution than men.
- Available From:** Plenum Press, 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013, (212) 620-8000, http://isbndb.com/d/book/homelessness_a04.html.
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- Order #: 495**
- Authors:** Roth, D., Toomey, B.G. and First, R.J.
- Title:** **Homeless Women: Characteristics and Service Needs.**
- Source:** Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work: 6-19, 1987. (Journal Article: 14 pages)
- Abstract:** The authors analyze data from interviews with a representative sample of 186 homeless women in Ohio. Information is provided on demographics, reasons for homelessness, the extent of health and mental health problems, and financial and social supports. The authors suggest that there are three subgroups of homeless women: a third to one-half who can become self-supporting with temporary, limited intervention; one-third who are substantially impaired, but could be helped toward independence through intensive, longer-term efforts; and a remaining minority who will require various levels of services on a continual basis and who will never be fully independent.
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- Order #: 174**

Women

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- Order #: 827**
- Authors:** Rowe, S., Wolch, J.R.
- Title:** **Social Networks in Time and Space: Homeless Women in Skid Row, Los Angeles.**
- Source:** Annals of the Association of American Geographers 80(2): 184-205, 1990. (Journal Article: 21 pages)
- Abstract:** The authors report on a qualitative study of homeless women living on Skid Row, Los Angeles. A conceptual framework for understanding the role of social networks in meeting basic human needs, and how time and space shape the social networks of average urban residents is discussed. This framework emphasizes that as social networks are utilized in the course of an individual's daily path, they create a powerful sense of time-space continuity, which in turn molds personal identity and self-esteem. Using the voices of the women themselves, the report presents the findings on how homeless women rebuild their social networks, and in so doing, try to reestablish time-space continuity, a valued individual identity, and positive self-esteem.
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- Order #: 2997**
- Authors:** Russell, B.G.
- Title:** **Silent Sisters: A Study of Homeless Women.**
- Source:** New York, NY: Hemisphere Publishing Corporation, 1991. (Book: 131 pages)
- Abstract:** This book is based on an ethnographic study of homeless women in Baltimore, MD. Rather than study homeless women from the cultural distance of mainstream society, the author examines these women from their point of view through participant observation. The study focuses on the daily lives of homeless women living in shelters and missions in the city. Also examined is the extent to which these women have developed a specific culture or subculture (author).
- Available From:** Taylor & Francis Group, 29 West 35th Street, New York, NY 10001, (212) 216-7800, www.tandf.co.uk/books (COST: \$52.95) (ISBN 1-56032-098-2).
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- Order #: 9658**
- Authors:** Sacks, J.Y., Sacks, S.,
- Title:** **Final Report of Project Activities. Homelessness Prevention Therapeutic Community for Addicted Mothers.**
- Source:** New York, NY: Center for Therapeutic Community Research, National Development and Research Institutes, 1998. (Report: 85 pages)
- Abstract:** This report describes a homelessness prevention therapeutic community (TC) for addicted mothers and their children developed in response to increasing numbers of homeless addicted mothers and families entering the Philadelphia shelter system. The program uses TC principles and methods as the foundation for recovery and the structure within which the homelessness prevention interventions unfold. The report describes the program's conceptual framework and logic model, setting, client profiles, goals, and interventions. The outcome evaluation compares the effectiveness of the homelessness prevention TC with a standard TC on both traditional outcomes and prevention outcomes. This program has considerable significance for policy and planning, especially for the development of integrated mother-child programs and for the application of TC principles and methods to homelessness prevention.
- Available From:** Center for Therapeutic Community Research, National Development and Research Institutes, 71 West 23rd Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10010, (212) 845-4400, mail@ndri.org, www.ndri.org.

Women

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- Authors:** Salomon, A., Bassuk, S., Brooks, M. **Order #: 6464**
- Title:** **Patterns of Welfare Use Among Poor and Homeless Women.**
- Source:** American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 66(4): 510-525, 1996. (Journal Article: 16 pages)
- Abstract:** This article describes a study in which the relationship between patterns of welfare use and demographic, health, and social factors was assessed in a cross-sectional survey of homeless and poorly housed women on welfare. Homeless women using transitional shelters in Worcester, MA were randomly interviewed. Factors associated with long-term welfare and those associated with episodic (as opposed to continuous) welfare use are identified. Implications for welfare reform are discussed in light of findings that highlight the complexity of these women's lives and the variation in their use of welfare. The authors contend that policies directed at preventing long-term Aid to Families with Dependent Children use solely through work-based initiatives will not succeed in insuring economic independence.
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- Authors:** Siefert, K., Heflin, C.M., Corcoran, M.E., Williams, D.R. **Order #: 10309**
- Title:** **Food Insufficiency and the Physical and Mental Health of Low-Income Women.**
- Source:** Women and Health 32 (1-2), 2001. (Journal Article: 19 pages)
- Abstract:** Poor women with children are disproportionately represented among the food insufficient. Recent research has linked food insufficiency with dietary deficiencies, but further research linking this problem to health and mental health problems is needed to inform health and social policy. We analyzed the relationship between food insufficiency and physical and mental health in a random sample of 724 single women who were welfare recipients in February, 1997. Food insufficiency was significantly associated with poor or fair self-rated health and physical limitations, and with respondents' meeting DSM-III-R criteria for recent major depression. Although the cross-sectional design of this study precludes causal inference, these findings add to a growing body of evidence that food insufficiency is associated with serious adverse physical and mental health consequences.
-
- Authors:** Simons, R.L., Whitbeck, L.B. **Order #: 1206**
- Title:** **Sexual Abuse as a Precursor to Prostitution and Victimization Among Adolescent and Adult Homeless Women.**
- Source:** Journal of Family Issues 12(3): 361-379, 1991. (Journal Article: 19 pages)
- Abstract:** A sample of 40 adolescent runaways and a sample of 95 homeless women were studied in an attempt to determine the impact of early sexual abuse on prostitution and victimization. The results suggest that early sexual abuse increases the probability of involvement in prostitution irrespective of any influence exerted through factors such as running away from home, substance abuse, and other deviant activities. In contrast, the findings indicate that early sexual abuse only indirectly affects the chances of victimization by increasing the likelihood of a high risk lifestyle.

Women

Order #: 2874

Authors: Smith, E.M., North, C.S.

Title: Not All Homeless Women Are Alike: Effects of Motherhood and the Presence of Children.

Source: Community Mental Health Journal 30(6): 601-610, 1994. (Journal Article: 10 pages)

Abstract: Previous work suggests that the population of homeless women is a heterogeneous group, and that motherhood and the presence or absence of children define subgroups that may be distinct. This article describes a study of 300 homeless women who were divided into subgroups based on motherhood and child custody status for comparative analysis of demographic variables, history of homelessness and psychiatric disorders. Findings indicate that compared to other women, mothers with their children were younger and more often unemployed and welfare dependent, and were more often in contact with relatives. Mothers without their children tended to have higher rates of substance abuse and other psychiatric disorders. The findings suggest that homeless mothers with dependent children have greater social vulnerabilities and fewer personal vulnerabilities (authors).

Order #: 8845

Authors: Smith, E.M., North, C.S., Fox, L.W.

Title: Eighteen-Month Follow-Up Data on a Treatment Program for Homeless Substance Abusing Mothers.

Source: Journal of Addictive Diseases 14(4): 57-72, 1995. (Journal Article: 16 pages)

Abstract: In response to the dearth of data on substance abuse treatment among mothers who are homeless, this article presents 18-month follow-up data on 149 homeless mothers with young children enlisted in a substance abuse treatment program. The effects of residential compared to nonresidential services were evaluated over the follow-up period. Although dropout rates were high, predictors of dropout were identified, and the residential had a lower dropout rate compared to the nonresidential group. Members of both groups evidenced improvement in alcohol and drug problems and in housing stability, regardless of the amount of time they spent in the program. This project demonstrated that homeless mothers can be more successfully engaged in substance abuse programs with provisions of residential placement in addition to participation in a therapeutic community (authors).

Order #: 12072

Authors: Smith, E.M., North, C.S., Heaton, T.M.

Title: A Substance Abuse Recovery Program for Homeless Mothers with Children: St. Louis.

Source: Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly 10(3-4): 91-100, 1993. (Journal Article: 9 pages)

Abstract: This article discusses the existing substance abuse programs, and their men-oriented structure. The authors assert that this structuring causes serious limitations in many programs' abilities to help women. They separate mothers from their children during treatment and focus on adult recovery rather than being family oriented. The article focuses on the Grace Hill Family Center intervention program which was designed specifically for the substance abuse treatment needs of homeless mothers in St. Louis. The authors analyze the Center's three approaches, which include strengthening neighbors so they may help others, traditional 12-step recovery services, and Yablonsky's theory of the therapeutic community (authors).

Women

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- Order #: 2087**
- Authors:** Smith, E.M., North, C.S., Spitznagel, E.L.
- Title:** Alcohol, Drugs, and Psychiatric Comorbidity Among Homeless Women: An Epidemiologic Study.
- Source:** Journal of Clinical Psychiatry 54(3): 82-87, 1993. (Journal Article: 6 pages)
- Abstract:** This study focused on the psychiatric diagnosis and comorbidity of a sample of homeless women from St. Louis shelters. The article presents information on the sociodemographic characteristics, history of homelessness, lifetime and current prevalence rates for alcohol and drug abuse and major psychiatric disorders, comorbidity rates, and utilization of mental health services. Much of the data is compared with data on women in the Epidemiologic Catchment Area (ECA) study to illuminate potential differences in psychiatric morbidity of homeless women from that of general population women (authors).
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- Order #: 1998**
- Authors:** Somers, A.
- Title:** Domestic Violence Survivors.
- Source:** In Roberston, M. J. and Greenblatt, M. (eds.), Homelessness: A National Perspective. New York, NY: Plenum Press 1992. (Book Chapter: 8 pages)
- Abstract:** This chapter examines the causes of domestic violence, and characteristics of the population of domestic violence survivors. The author further examines the needs of homeless domestic violence survivors and their children, and the services that are currently available.
- Available From:** Plenum Press, 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013, (212) 620-8000, http://isbndb.com/d/book/homelessness_a04.html.
-
- Order #: 6869**
- Authors:** Stahler, G.J., Godboldte, C., Shipley, T.E., Shandler, I.W., Ijoy, L., Weinberg, A., Harrison-Horn, N., Nichols, C., Simons, L., Koszowski, L.
- Title:** Preventing Relapse Among Crack-Using Homeless Women with Children: Building Bridges to the Community.
- Source:** In Smith, E.M., Ferrari, J.R. (eds.), Diversity Within the Homeless Population: Implications for Intervention. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press, 1997. (Book Chapter: 14 pages)
- Abstract:** This chapter discusses an innovative treatment and aftercare program for urban homeless crack addicted women with children that involves a partnership between a residential treatment facility and a coalition of African-American church congregations in Philadelphia. The target population for this program are women with children under six years old who are either homeless or residentially unstable, and who are addicted to crack cocaine. The program is designed to prevent relapse and maintain sobriety by linking inpatient treatment to culturally sensitive, community-based interventions. The authors conclude that the initial results seem to be promising in terms of graduation rates and relapse, but that the effectiveness of the project needs to be evaluated using a rigorous comparative design.
- Available From:** Haworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904, (800) 429-6784, www.haworthpressinc.com (COST: \$19.95).

Women

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- Authors:** Stein, J., Leslie, M.B., Nyamathi, A. **Order #: 11901**
- Title:** **Relative Contributions of Parent Substance Use and Childhood Maltreatment to Chronic Homelessness, Depression, and Substance Abuse Problems Among Homeless Women: Mediating Roles of Self-Esteem and Abuse in Adulthood.**
- Source:** Child Abuse and Neglect 26(10): 1011-1027, 2002. (Journal Article: 17 pages)
- Abstract:** This article is based on a study that explores simultaneously the relative effects of childhood abuse and early parental substance abuse on later chronic homelessness, depression, and substance abuse problems in a sample of homeless women. The authors also examine whether self-esteem and recent violence can serve as mediators between the childhood predictors and the dysfunctional outcomes (authors).
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- Authors:** Steinbock, M.R. **Order #: 2859**
- Title:** **Homeless Female-Headed Families: Relationships at Risk.**
- Source:** In Hanson, S.M.H., (ed.), Single Parent Families: Diversity, Myths and Realities. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 1995. (Book Chapter: 17 pages)
- Abstract:** The first section of this article examines the ways in which national and state family welfare laws affect the parenting capacities of the single mother. Our legal system's response to domestic violence, the precipitating factor for roughly one-half of homeless women seeking shelter, is addressed in the second section. According to the author, once poverty and/or domestic violence catapult the single mother into homelessness, the children are often placed in foster care, especially if the mother has a substance abuse problem. Implications for policy development, research and practice are also discussed (author).
- Available From:** Haworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904, (800) 429-6784, www.haworthpressinc.com (COST: \$64.95).
-
- Authors:** Sullivan, M.A. **Order #: 846**
- Title:** **The Homeless Older Woman in Context: Alienation, Cutoff and Reconnection.**
- Source:** Journal of Women and Aging 3(2): 3-24, 1991. (Journal Article: 22 pages)
- Abstract:** Homelessness has reached crisis proportions and the number of women among the homeless is increasing at higher rates than that of men. A significant proportion of these women are older. Drawing from clinical experience and using supportive empirical data, this paper focuses on family dysfunction and societal factors contributing to homelessness in older women and attempts to identify factors that may characterize the pre-homeless state (author).
-
- Authors:** Thrasher, S.P., Mowbray, C.T. **Order #: 5539**
- Title:** **A Strengths Perspective: An Ethnographic Study of Homeless Women with Children.**
- Source:** Health and Social Work 20(2): 93-101, 1995. (Journal Article: 9 pages)
- Abstract:** This article describes an ethnographic study of homeless women with children that examined the prevailing strengths of this population. The women's strengths were identified in seeking housing, caring for children, and remaining connected to social contacts to keep their families together. The authors suggest that ethnography provides guideposts for social workers as they search for practice models.

Women

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- Authors:** Ugarriza, D.N., Fallon, T. **Order #:** 2623
- Title:** Nurses' Attitudes Toward Homeless Women: A Barrier to Change.
- Source:** Nursing Outlook 42(1): 26-29, 1994. (Journal Article: 4 pages)
- Abstract:** According to the authors, negative attitudes of nurses toward homeless women may make them reluctant to seek health care. Strategies aimed at correcting nurses' attitudes are outlined as a means of improving the health of homeless women (authors).
-
- Authors:** Wagner, J.K., Perrine, R.M. **Order #:** 5743
- Title:** Women at Risk for Homelessness: Comparison Between Housed and Homeless Women.
- Source:** Psychological Reports 75(3): 1671-1678, 1994. (Journal Article: 8 pages)
- Abstract:** This article describes a study that explored the difference between women who are currently housed but are at risk for homelessness versus homeless women in a middle-sized city in the southeast. The research focused on experiences in the women's history that might explain some differences between homeless women and women who are at risk for homelessness but are currently housed through public-assistance programs. Ninety-eight women from a community emergency shelter and public-assistance programs were either interviewed or completed questionnaires assessing the women's history of mental illness, employment and housing problems, physical and sexual abuse, drug and alcohol problems, and skills for building and maintaining relationships. Results show that compared to 48 at-risk housed women, the 50 homeless women reported a history of more symptoms of mental illness, more instability of employment and housing, more physical and sexual abuse, more drug and alcohol problems, and fewer skills for interacting with others (authors).
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- Authors:** Wardhaugh, J. **Order #:** 8031
- Title:** The Unaccommodated Woman: Home, Homelessness, and Identity.
- Source:** The Sociological Review 47(1): 91-109, 1999. (Journal Article: 19 pages)
- Abstract:** The home has been constructed as a source of identity and as an essential foundation of social order. Such order, however, is based on the experiences of many women of the home as a prison. These "homeless-at-home" women experience abuse, violence, and the suppression of self within the supposed haven of the domestic home. This article draws on the author's own ethnographic research with homeless women and men within the Three Cities Project on youth homelessness and crime, and concludes by examining two ways of being homeless: identity work and the management of bodily space (author).
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- Authors:** Webb, D., Culhane, J., Metraux, S., Robbins, J., Culhane, D. **Order #:** 13136
- Title:** Prevalence of Episodic Homelessness Among Adult Childbearing Women in Philadelphia, PA.
- Source:** American Journal of Public Health 93(11): 1895-1896, 2003. (Journal Article: 2 pages)
- Abstract:** In this article the authors conducted a study based on public shelter use and birth record data to determine the likelihood of homelessness among pregnant women in Philadelphia, PA. Economic, social and psychological dislocations associated with housing instability are discussed. According to the article, this study concluded that a large number of urban and minority childbearing women are exposed to the disruptions and dislocations associated with becoming homeless at some point in their reproductive careers. The author concludes that adequate and affordable housing has significant implications for the health of individuals and the health of populations in several ways (authors).

Women

Order #: 12838

Authors: Wechsberg, W., Lam, W., Zule, W., Hall, G., Middlesteadt, R., Edwards, J.

Title: **Violence, Homelessness, and HIV Risk Among Crack-Using African-American Women.**

Source: Substance Use and Misuse 38(3-6): 669-700, 2003. (Journal Article: 31 pages)

Abstract: This study compares the characteristics of out-of-treatment, homeless, crack-using African American women with those who are not homeless to determine what risks and protective factors differentiate the two groups. From 1999-2001, 683 out-of-treatment, African American crack-using women were interviewed and serologically tested. Risk factors that were examined include adverse childhood experiences, psychological distress, physical health, violence and victimization, drug use, and risky sex behaviors. Protective factors that were examined include marital status, education, public assistance, and the responsibility of caring for children. According to the authors, the findings suggest that not only do these women overall report painful histories and currently stressful lives, but homeless women are more likely than women who are not homeless to have experienced child abuse and are more involved with drug use (authors).

Order #: 3454

Authors: Weinreb, L., Browne, A., Berson, J.D.

Title: **Services for Homeless Pregnant Women: Lessons From the Field.**

Source: American Journal of Orthopsychiatry 65(4): 492-501, 1995. (Journal Article: 10 pages)

Abstract: Although a significant subset of homeless women are pregnant and at risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes, programmatic responses to their special needs are limited. This article describes one of the first program efforts specifically designed to respond to the special needs of homeless pregnant women. The program is a three-site demonstration effort established by the Better Homes Fund in collaboration with the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities. Although sufficient data for a comprehensive examination of existing service delivery approaches are lacking, a review of findings from the pilot program's evaluation reveals some of the complex challenges that must be dealt with in seeking to address the needs of this population (authors).

Order #: 9911

Authors: Wenzel, S., Leake, B., Gelberg, L.

Title: **Risk Factors for Major Violence Among Homeless Women.**

Source: Journal of Interpersonal Violence 16(8): 739-752, 2001. (Journal Article: 13 pages)

Abstract: Violence against women is a significant public health, criminal, and social problem, but survey research with a focus on homeless women's experiences of violence is limited. Using self-report data from a probability sample of 974 homeless women in Los Angeles County, CA, this study examines severity of homelessness, social and family characteristics, subsistence activities, and alcohol and drug abuse or dependence as predictors of major violence (i.e. being kicked, bitten, hit with a fist or object, beaten up, choked, burned, or threatened or harmed with a knife or gun). One third of the women experienced major violence during the year before they were interviewed. Greater severity of homelessness, engaging in subsistence activities, and victimization during childhood were significant predictors of major violence. Analyses suggested that drug dependence might influence victimization risk through sex trade. Major violence against homeless women requires attention from multiple service sectors (authors).

Women

Order #: 5783

Authors: Wenzel, S.L., Koegel, P., Gelberg, L.

Title: Access to Substance Abuse Treatment for Homeless Women of Reproductive Age.

Source: Journal of Psychoactive Drugs 28(1): 17-30, 1996. (Journal Article: 15 pages)

Abstract: The authors explain that homeless women in the United States comprise a subpopulation at high risk for substance abuse -- with rates of substance use disorder ranging from 16% to 67%. Despite the need for treatment that such high rates imply, relatively few substance-abusing homeless women avail themselves of formal treatment. The authors contend that the fact that they tend not to utilize formal treatment services is especially problematic among homeless women of reproductive age, who are not only themselves at risk of health-related problems but who place their fetuses and children in danger of multiple negative consequences. The imbalance between treatment need and treatment access suggests that homeless, substance abusing women are facing severe barriers to care. Although identifying barriers to their treatment access is crucial if this imbalance is to be remedied, very little empirical research has been done in this area. This article presents an overview of current knowledge about barriers to substance abuse treatment for women generally and for homeless women specifically, and proposes a comprehensive empirical strategy for redressing the lack of information on homeless women's access to substance abuse treatment (author).

Order #: 8750

Authors: Wenzel, S.L., Koegel, P., Gelberg, L.

Title: Antecedents of Physical and Sexual Victimization Among Homeless Women: A Comparison to Homeless Men.

Source: American Journal of Community Psychology 28(3): 267-290, 2000. (Journal Article: 24 pages)

Abstract: In this article, the authors investigated potential antecedent of recent (past 30 days) physical and sexual victimization in a probability sample of 394 women who are homeless and compared findings to those for 1,159 men who are homeless. As hypothesized, mental disorder, substance dependence, and engaging in economic survival strategies significantly predicted victimization among women who are homeless. With few dissimilarities, these characteristics also predicted victimization among men who are homeless. Although differences in the needs and experiences of women and men who are homeless must be recognized, both women and men require assistance to establish and maintain safe residences, treatment of any substance use and mental disorder, and alternatives to economic survival strategies that place them at risk for victimization (authors).

Order #: 1116

Authors: West, C.G., Fernandez, A., Hillard, J.R., Schoof, M., Parks, J.

Title: Psychiatric Disorders of Abused Women at a Shelter.

Source: Psychiatric Quarterly 61(4): 295-301, 1990. (Journal Article: 7 pages)

Abstract: This study assesses the prevalence of categorical DSM-III-R diagnoses; particularly, major depression and posttraumatic stress disorder. Subjects for this study were obtained from a domestic violence shelter, sponsored by the local YWCA, for homeless abused women and their children in Cincinnati. Although there was a high prevalence of treatable psychiatric disorders in residents of the shelter, most were receiving no psychiatric treatment. Results suggest that there is a significant subpopulation that would benefit from psychiatric intervention, and that the IDD and PTSD SCID might prove useful to shelter staff in deciding which residents need mental health services.

Women

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- Authors:** Williams, J.C. **Order #: 7876**
- Title:** Domestic Violence and Poverty: The Narratives of Homeless Women.
- Source:** Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies 19(2): 143-165, 1998. (Journal Article: 23 pages)
- Abstract:** This article analyzes both homeless shelters and battered women's shelters in Phoenix, Az., and points to the striking similarities in reasons for seeking emergency housing in both types of shelters. Specifically women discuss similarly impoverished circumstances and often indicate that their past histories include abusive partners. Partly, the similarity in these stories can be traced to overlapping populations of the two types of shelters. Women may enter a homeless shelter after spending thirty days in a battered women's shelter, and some may enter homeless shelters instead of battered women's shelters due to availability, later curfews, and a variety of other reasons. The author concludes that the overlap in populations and the similarities among women's stories suggest a complex connection between battering and homelessness (author).
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- Authors:** Wolf, K.A., Goldfader, R., Lehan, C. **Order #: 6980**
- Title:** Women Speak: Healing the Wounds of Homelessness Through Writing.
- Source:** Nursing and Health Care: Perspectives on Community 18(2): 74-78, 1997. (Journal Article: 4 pages)
- Abstract:** This article describes the Women Speak writing project that explores the use of writing as a therapeutic process with homeless women at an urban drop-in center. The project was developed in response to the women's desire to give voice to their experiences. By speaking about and sharing the experiences of their lives, a sense of empowerment through expression began. Nursing students and faculty working at the drop-in center were challenged to rethink the traditional site relationship that gives highest priority to meeting the needs of students and faculty (authors).
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- Authors:** Zlotnick, C., Robertson, M.J., Wright, M.A. **Order #: 8323**
- Title:** The Impact of Childhood Foster Care and Other Out-of-Home Placement on Homeless Women and Their Children.
- Source:** Child Abuse and Neglect 23(11): 1057-1068, 1999. (Journal Article: 12 pages)
- Abstract:** This article compares homeless women who had childhood histories of foster care or other out-of-home placement to those who have not. A countywide sample of homeless women (n=179) in Alameda County, CA, received structured interviews. One-third of homeless women reported being raised apart from their parents. Among women with children under age 18, most (61.5%) had children who had lived in foster care or other out-of-home placements. Variables associated with homeless mothers' children living in foster care or other out-of-home placements were: child was school age; mother was age 35 or older; mother had a current alcohol or drug use disorder; mother experienced childhood sexual abuse; and mother ran away from home when under age of 18. The authors conclude that parenting is difficult for homeless mothers who may need to place their children with others to facilitate school attendance, and programs promoting family preservation should provide parenting support as well as permanent housing (authors).

Women

Order #: 1433

Authors: Zorza, J.

Title: Woman Battering: A Major Cause of Homelessness.

Source: Clearinghouse Review Special Issue: 412-429, 1991. (Journal Article: 10 pages)

Abstract: Much of the literature on homelessness never mentions woman battering as a cause of homelessness. The United States Conference of Mayors listed lack of affordable housing, mental illness, unemployment, poverty or the lack of income, and inadequate benefit levels in public assistance programs as the causes of homelessness in American cities. Studies of homeless women and families traditionally exclude battered women's shelters, presumably because their residents are unrepresentative of the homeless. However, the reality is that battered women and their children comprise a significant proportion of occupants of homeless shelters. This articles examines conflicting theories of causes of homelessness, the extent and cost of abuse to women, the effects of battering on children and proposals to minimize homelessness among battered women (author).